

MUNSTER VILLAGE,

A

N O V E L,

VOL. I.

MUNSTER VILLAGE,

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

L O N D O N :

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MUNSTER VILLAGE.

LORD Munster devoted himself entirely to ambition : what has been said of Cinna might be applied to him, *he had a head to contrive, a tongue to persuade, and a hand to execute any mischief.* Weak people are only wicked by halves ; and whenever we hear of high and enormous crimes, we may conclude that they proceeded from a

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power

power of soul, and a reach of thought, that are altogether unusual.

He stuck at nothing to accomplish his political plans; and his success rendered him still more enterprising: But being at last refused a favor from his Sovereign, he retired disgusted with the court, and in vain sought that happiness in a retreat, which his crimes made it impossible he should ever find. He was so chagrined that every thing became intolerable to him; and he continually vented his spleen on those of his friends, whose circumstances rendered them subservient to his caprices. He possessed good health, a large estate, and had fine children, that equalled his most sanguine expectations. In the opinion of the world,

world, therefore, he was *a very happy man*, but in his own, *quite the contrary*. No man can judge of the happiness or infelicity of his neighbour. We only know the external causes of good and evil, which causes are not always proportionable to their effects: those which seem to us small, often occasion a strong sensation; and those which appear to us great, often produce only a faint sensation. The great advantages Lord Munster possessed, as they excited in him only indifference, in reality were inconsiderable in themselves. But the small evil, his having been refused a ribbon by his Sovereign, exciting in him insupportable uneasiness, was in reality a great evil. Lady Munster had been dead many years: Lord Finlay and Lady Frances were

the only surviving children. Engrossed as the earl had been in public affairs, he still paid particular attention to their education. Though a man of the world, he was at the utmost pains in selecting those of distinguished worth, to whom only he committed the care of his children. Lord Finlay had promising parts ; but force of mind makes a man capable of great vices or great virtues, but determines him to neither.

Education, discipline, and accidents of life, constitute him either a profound philosopher, or a great knave. The probity and disinterestedness of Mr. Burt's principles recommended him to Lord Munster, for a tutor to his son.—He had been brought up to the ministry, with an inclination to it,
and

and entered into it with a fervent desire of being as useful as he could. His education being all his fortune, he subscribed, and took every step the church required, before he was sufficiently acquainted with the doctrines subscribed to;—their foundation in scripture, and the controversies which he afterwards found had been raised, and carried on about them in the christian world: and, after a diligent inquiry, was dissatisfied with some doctrines established in our articles, liturgy, &c. and declined accepting a considerable living in Lord Munster's gift, on which *alone* he depended for his future subsistence, and that of an amiable woman, whom he had espoused upon these expectations.

I heartily wish that all who are disposed for the ministry of the church, were as careful to satisfy themselves about the lawfulness of *conformity*, and that the church of England laid fewer obstructions in the way of those, who are both disposed, and qualified for advancing the interests of religion, and virtue; but dare not engage publicly in her service, for fear of violating the peace of their minds, and wounding their consciences. In such a situation what must a clergyman do? must he preach and maintain doctrines he disapproves of? this would be acting both against his persuasion, and his solemn promise at his ordination. Shall he preach or write against them? this he must not do neither, lest he should be judged guilty of impugning

his subscription, and consequently incur the censures of the church. Shall he then be quite silent, and neither preach nor write about them at all? but how will this be consistent, with his other solemn promise, made likewise at his ordination, *to be ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines*—all doctrines which he is *persuaded*, are contrary to God's word? He must therefore necessarily offend, either against the church, or against truth, and his own conscience. A sad alternative! when a man can neither speak, what he thinks to be truth, with *safety*, nor be silent without *offence*. These considerations induced Mr. Burt to refuse a proffered establishment—by which conduct, he proved his be-

lief in *a future state*, more firmly than
 a great many of them appear to do,
 by their immoderate desires of the
 good things *in this* : but his faith was
 founded, not on the fallacious argu-
 ments of too many of his brethren ;
 but on that adorable conjunction of
 unbounded power and goodness, which
 must certainly someway recompense
 so many thousand innocent wretches,
 created to be so miserable here. He
 possessed that virtue in an eminent de-
 gree, which the christians call humility,
 and which the ancients were ignorant
 of.—But he had real merit, and could
 easily be modest, which is almost im-
 possible to those, who have only the
 affectation of it. With this respecta-
 ble man was Lord Finlay placed, at
 five years old, when a considerable
 settle-

settlement was made on him, in compensation, for relinquishing other pursuits, with a promise of its being continued for life. Lord Munster from time to time examined his son, and was highly satisfied with the progress he made; and not a little surprised, to find him no way deficient in those accomplishments, which, though of less consequence in themselves, a late noble author has illustrated as being absolutely necessary, in compleating the character of a fine gentleman. For these Lord Finlay was indebted to Captain Lewis, father-in-law to Mr. Burt. This old gentleman was of an antient family, and had retired from the army, disgusted at his situation, having been many years in a very subaltern station.

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The condition of many brave and experienced officers is to be lamented, who, after having passed through many various dangers, in the service of their country, are subject to the command of boys and striplings. Whilst stations, which should be the reward of martial virtues, can be purchased, it is in vain to hope, that our officers can be animated, like those of a neighbouring nation.

Honour alone can support the soldier in a day of battle ; without this invigorating principle, humanity will tremble at the sight of slaughter, and every danger will be avoided, which necessity does not impose.

Captain Lewis retained that dignity of sentiment, which no misfortunes could surmount. Our hearts and understandings

derstandings, are not subject to the vicissitudes of fortune. We may have a noble soul though our circumstances be circumscribed, and a superiority of mind without being of the highest rank. He had been much among the *great world*, in the early part of his life, having been *aide-de-camp* to Lord S——. Upon his daughter's marriage with Mr. Burt, he resided entirely with him; and though she died of her first child, he continued with him, and became as fond of lord Finlay as his granddaughter, who, after her mother's decease, became the object of his tenderest affection.

Thus were Lord Finlay and Miss Burt brought up together; and from the time of her birth never separated until she was nine years old. At that period she

she was sent to a convent at Paris, and returned, after six years absence, highly accomplished ; uniting in herself every thing that could charm a heart that was disengaged.

The consequences to Lord Finlay were inevitable, though never suspected. A student of about eighteen, full of the amours of Ovid, and the soft odes in Horace, has a heart very susceptible of love. These sensations were too agreeable to be repulsed ; he delivered himself entirely over to his passion, which absorbed every other faculty of his soul. The most perfect affection soon subsisted between these young people : but the dignity of Miss Burt's manners inspired her lover with such respect as rendered him silent on the subject of his passion, as he could
not

not enforce it without his father's sanction.

But there is an intelligence between tender souls, and the most animated expression may be conveyed without the aid of words; and this dumb language is so eloquent, that it is generally understood where the heart is in unison. Friendship, indeed, was only spoke of; but their every look, their every action, bespoke the most ardent love. "What transports," (said he, one day to her) "can friendship bestow! what refined feelings, what delightful sensations, actuate the human soul in such happy moments as these!"

We contemplate each other in silence; but the soul is never more eloquent than under the influence of such a silence. She expresses, in a moment, a
train

train of ideas and sensations, which would be but confounded by utterance.

Miss Burt had a merit the more engaging, from its avoiding notice and parade: a refined genius, enriched with great knowledge and happy expression, united with the most candid sincerity and goodness of heart; these qualities entitled her to the esteem and friendship of every noble mind: and the thick veil, under which her too great modesty concealed her pre-eminence, exalted her in the penetrating eyes of her lover. She scarce ever laid *this veil* aside, except to him, whose approbation rendered her indifferent with respect to the commendations of every one else. He became every day more attached to her: and was so ignorant of the world as to expect his
father's

father's approbation of his passion, and that he would be propitious to it.

Thus situated were the lovers, when Lord Munster disgusted with the court, retired to the country. He immediately sent for Mr. Burt and Lord Finlay: although the distance was only a few miles, it was very grievous for the latter to leave a place, where he had access every minute of the day, to behold the object of his wishes.

Upon this occasion, he was determined to disclose to her the situation of his heart. He threw himself at her feet, in that pathetic disorder of spirits, which constitutes the true eloquence of love, and endeavoured to speak, but hesitated at every word. In the
mean

mean time she saw and pitied his confusion.

“ I can read,” said she, “ my lord,” with an air of frankness, “ the sentiments of your heart : I am not insensible of your passion ; but why hath fortune placed us at so great a distance from each other ? how delightful it would have been to me, if—But, said she, (stopping short in her discourse) “ let us not flatter ourselves with chimeras.—Let us suppress the emotions of our hearts ; it may be dangerous to indulge them.”

“ How ? dangerous !” replied Lord Finlay, “ why suppress them ? do not those emotions constitute our happiness ? It is the duty of love to repair the injustice of fortune. How enraptured should I be to make happy the
object

object I love. Prejudice might object to it perhaps: but that shall never enslave my understanding, especially as it must be founded only in pride."

With these sentiments they parted. It may be easily conceived how impatient Lord Finlay was, to see the idol of his heart; but he could not with propriety, propose quitting his father, for the first days after his arrival in the country. He at last fell upon the expedient of suggesting, whether, as he was under such obligations to Captain Lewis, it would not be proper to call, and invite him to Munster house. This Lord Munster agreeing to, he and his son called one morning; when Miss Burt entertaining them with a little music, the light-winged god took one of the sharpest arrows

from the fair-one's quiver, applied it to his bow, and, swift as the forked lightning of Jove, fixed it in the old man's heart. Lord Munster became desperately in love, and determined to make her his wife. It is not at all surprising, that a young woman makes an impression on an old man. While we have life we have our passions; age *represses*, but does not *extinguish* them. As in maturer years, the fire lurks under the ashes of prudence; so, if that be wanting, love burns up and blazes fiercely; and is generally inextinguishable, if it takes hold of the dry and worm-eaten wood of old-age. Persons of languid passions (it has been observed) have few partialities; they neither love, nor hate, nor look, nor move, with the energy of a man

man of sense. People of real genius, and strong passions, have great partialities. The blamelessness of the former should be weighed with their insignificance; and the faults of the latter balanced with their superiority.

Lord Munster made proposals to Mr. Burt that very day, never doubting but that Hymen would soon rekindle his *torch*.—But the same principles determined him respecting his daughter, which had influenced him in his own affairs. He thanked Lord Munster for the honor he intended her, which he should acquaint her of—but that in an affair, in which her happiness for life was so immediately concerned, he must forgive his interfering further. When he acquainted her with it; instead of enforcing the acceptance of

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the honor proposed to her, he was at great pains to precaution her against many disagreeable consequences of such an unequal alliance, both in age and condition, lest she should be dazzled by wealth or titles, to sacrifice her inclinations !

Miss Burt, with unfeigned concern, was greatly chagrined to hear of Lord Munster's proposals : she, therefore, with great warmth, declared herself totally unfit, for such an exalted station. " I can neither," said she, " adopt the virtues, or the vices of the great : the former are too conspicuous, the other too obscure. A round of peaceable employments, proper to satisfy the mind, and to soothe the heart, is the kind of happiness for which I find myself inclined."

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“ With such principles and inclinations, I could not be happy in the great world, where the general way of life, is solely calculated, to flatter the senses, and where a superior genius is contemned, or at least only permitted, to exhibit itself in lively fallies, or smart repartees.”

Mr. Burt informed the earl of his daughter's sentiments. But his lordship's self-love prevailed so far, as to render it impossible to conceive that *be could be refused*. He, therefore, made preparations for his nuptials, and sent for his daughter home, to be present on that occasion. Lord Munster had taken the same pains on Lady Frances's education, as her brother's. Mrs. Norden, a distant relation, had the entire charge of her. She re-

sided in London, until Lady Frances was fourteen years old : at that time she accompanied her to Rome, where she had the best masters, and where Santerello improved her taste in music. After remaining three years at Rome, they went to Paris, from which they were just returned, at the period above mentioned. Lord Munster was greatly charmed, both with the personal, and acquired perfections of his daughter : and professed himself much indebted to Mrs. Norden, for the very great attention she had paid to her.

The day after Lady Frances's arrival, she went to Mr. Burt's to pay her respects to her intended mother-in-law.

No servant happening to be in the way to announce her, she walked forwards into a room, the door of which she

she saw open, with an intention to ring the bell, when she found Miss Burt in her father's library, weeping bitterly : never before had she seen such an air of languid softness, mixed with so much beauty. What an affecting sight ! She was going to retire, to save her from that confusion which a sensible heart is apt to feel at having its afflictions perceived by a stranger ; but the lovely mourner, observing her, endeavoured to suppress her emotions : but her grief was too violent to be checked ; and her tears burst forth the more, for having been an instant subdued. She could only say, " That she could be no stranger to *who* did her the honour of waiting on her, from the likeness Lady Frances had to her brother." The thoughts of Lord Finlay then renewed

her affliction ; and asking pardon for her rudeness, she again shed a torrent of tears. Lady Frances answered, " That apologies were only due on her part, for breaking in upon her retirement, and witnessing emotions she might have wished to conceal." After a few general things, she told her the pleasure it gave her of having so near a prospect of being entitled to take an interest in all her concerns ; when she would be happy in her friendship. In this Lady Frances was perfectly sincere ; for though she had been alarmed at the intended marriage taking place, and although she was of a very shy disposition, yet, at first sight, feeling the greatest partiality for Miss Burt, she echoed her sighs, and her eyes bore testimony of the feelings of

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her heart. With all the confidence of an ancient friendship, she conjured her to acquaint her with the cause of her sorrows; and took upon her to console, soothe, and comfort her. Miss Burt had only time to express the sense she entertained of her goodness, and to add, her miseries were *too great* to be *alleviated*; when her grand-father entering the room, the conversation turned upon general topics.

Upon Lady Frances's return home, her father gayly enquired, What she thought of his intended bride?

He answered, Every thing that was charming; and that she had prepared for her an eternal habitation in the warmest part of her heart: "There is every thing in her," added she, "that can engage the affections, or
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command the respect, of people of taste and judgment."

Lord Finlay mean while was under the greatest oppression of spirits. A thousand conflicting passions tortured his (until then) undisturbed bosom. Love and filial piety alternately took possession of his soul. Each in their turn was rejected.—When sentiments are nearly of equal force, the soul, as if unsettled, and wavering between contrary emotions, knows not which to resolve on; its decrees destroy each other; scarce is it freed from its troubles when it is involved in them anew; this undetermined state does not always terminate to the advantage of the most powerful sentiment.

After

After a long conflict, the soul wearied out with the efforts it has made, gradually loses its sensibility and force together; and finally yields to the last impression, which thus remains master of the field. After many struggles, Lord Finlay was determined to sacrifice his *inclinations*, or in other words, (what he thought, his life, to his father.)

This pious resolution, no doubt, was strengthened, by his supposing Miss Burt had acquiesced to the proposed marriage. His resentment supported his prudence. Such was the situation of Lord Finlay's mind, when Lady Frances received the following letter from Miss Burt.

“ Madam,

“ Madam,

You found me in tears, and kindly insinuated your desire to mitigate my distress; receive from me all the acknowledgments which can proceed from a full heart, raised from the lowest distress, to a glimmering prospect of avoiding misery, while that superior Power which witnesses your generosity, will *reward it*. Thus, when unhappy, we grasp at the least shadow of relief ! we seize upon it with eagerness, and in a moment raise ourselves above our afflictions. When an unhappy drowning wretch is carried away by the current, while intimidated by the steepness of the banks, and the rapidity of the torrent, he looks upon death as inevitable; his sinews relax,
his

his heart fails him, he looks forward to an awful dreaded futurity : but if the least twig presents its friendly assistance, his courage at last revives, he raises his head, he seizes upon it with a hasty avidity, and makes a sudden and violent effort to save himself from destruction. Such is my application to your ladyship. Heaven grant you may avert from me those evils I so much dread ! even the horror of involving my respectable parents *in want and misery*. My father's probity has entailed on him poverty ; and my grand-father's half-pay is our sole dependance, exclusive of the salary Lord Munster settled on my respectable parent when he undertook to superintend the education of his son ; and which he promised to continue for life,

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in compensation for his giving up *all other pursuits*. I flatter myself, the frowardness of his unhappy daughter will not frustrate his lordship's beneficence, and which he judged his labours entitled him to. May I intreat your ladyship will soften, through the medium of your influence, the refusal of the honor intended me!

An attempt to deceive would wring my soul to torture: Can I then take upon me vows at the altar, incompatible with the feelings of my heart, and the possibility of conforming myself to? forbid it, gratitude, truth, and justice! let me sooner become a martyr to these, as my unfortunate father. In every event of my life, integrity and honor shall influence me. If my refusal is not founded upon the most

advantageous, yet it is upon the most *worthy* terms: if that of embracing *tranquility* before *profit*, and preferring probity of mind, even attended with the greatest inconveniencies, before its opposite, although surrounded with every outward accommodation, be deserving of that epithet. I ask pardon for this intrusion, and have the honor to be

Your Ladyship's

Obliged humble servant,

MARY ANN BURT."

The little tenderness Lord Munster had ever shewn Lady Frances, the impressions she entertained of the sourness of his disposition, and the severity of his temper; all conspired to fill her
with

with the greatest awe and dread of his displeasure. It may then be easily judged, how badly qualified she was for the office enjoined her, in the letter. To add to her distress, her valuable friend Mrs. Norden was absent, and she dared not conceal the receipt of it until her return, as it was a subject that admitted of no delay.

She accordingly summoned up sufficient courage to take the letter in her hand, and to present herself before her father; when her timidity and confusion, were sufficient vouchers of her unwillingness, to be an agent in such a disagreeable business. Her apprehensions were considerably increased, when the earl asked her, in a harsh tone, *her business with him?* Being unable to reply, and trembling from head to foot,

foot, she gave him the letter—which he eagerly perused, while he was alternately agitated with indignation, pride, and confusion ! He at length broke into a great rage, loading Lady Frances with invectives, for having innocently produced these emotions, adding, that he then discovered the cause of her partiality for Miss Burt : but that if she, or Lord Finlay, ever presumed, from that time forward, to hold any communication with *the Burt family*, he should consider them as aliens *to his* ! Where friendship is reversed, and turned to enmity, the *latter* is generally as *extreme*, as the *former* was *fervent*. If we were more regular in *our affections*, we should be more moderate in *our aversions*, and, without consulting our interest, should hate nothing

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thing but what is really odious: but we are so unjust, that we judge only of things by their relation to us; we approve of them when agreeable to us, and, by a strange infatuation, do not esteem them as good or bad, but by the satisfaction or disgust they give us: we would have them alter their quality according to our caprices, and cameleon like, assume our colours, and accommodate themselves to our desires. We fain would be the center of the world, and have all creatures join with us in inclination. Lord Munster was not only disappointed in his affections, but piqued in pride, that, after he had by his intrigues, led some of the first princes in Europe, and made them subservient to his views, a little obscure girl should render him the laughing-

laughing-stock of the country. Lady Frances retired, not daring to return him any answer.

Lord Finlay met her, and, alarmed at her appearance, followed her into her apartment, intreating to know the subject of the letter she had received from Miss Burt ! She informed him of it, and the disagreeable task she had just executed ; when his looks very soon (to one of her penetration) betrayed the situation of his heart. He owned to Lady Frances that his life depended on Miss Burt, their mutual affection, and the violence he had done his inclinations, by the obligations he had imposed on himself to subdue his passion whilst it interfered with his father : but remarked with joy, that he was now relieved from such a

painful effort. "The Almighty," said he, "my dear sister," (for he was in a state of mind which both inclined him to be wise and kind) "implanted both reason and the passions in human nature, mutually to conduce to mens happiness. But, in order to become a happy creature, man is not blindly to follow the impulses of his passion, to the exclusion of reason: nor is he to contradict his natural desires, but when they invert the order of nature, and oppose the common good of society, the dictates of right reason, and the manifest design of Providence.—I have done what man could do," added he; "I did not interfere when my father was concerned; but I will not relinquish the object of my affections to any other man breathing." This was
 Lord

Lord Finlay's philosophy, which he strictly adhered to—Tremblingly alive to his interest, Lady Frances told him the risque he would run of his father's displeasure; but the impetuosity of his passion rendered him deaf to her remonstrances; and, regardless of every thing but its gratification, he sat down and wrote the following letter to Miss Burt.

“ Madam.

The strict injunctions of my father, that all communication should cease between our families, renders it necessary for me to *write*, instead of *waiting* on you in person. Alas, how poor a substitute is the former for the latter! To express my sorrow, or paint my grief, is impossible! Were you to know

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my distress, you would be sensible of my sufferings, and compassionate my wretchedness ! To be debarred from the presence of your respectable parents, to whom I have a thousand obligations, and for whom I feel the greatest respect and tenderest regard, is a very great hardship : but to be prevented from beholding you, is downright tyranny, and forces me to rebel ! Could I see Mr. Burt, I would intreat him to pardon, what I am mortified to call the injustice of my father, and assure him that nothing shall be wanting, on my part, to soften, and bring him to reason. But I know too well the inflexibility of his virtue, he will not see me contrary to the inhibitions I have received.

Permit

Permit me on my knees to intreat from you that favor, I dare not request from him ! We may meet at —— any day before seven in the morning. My life depends on your answer ! Let us at least enjoy the soothing pleasure, the melancholy consolation of mingling griefs, and bearing a part in each other's sorrows ; a satisfaction that even renders despair itself more tolerable ! Be persuaded there is nothing, not even my father, that can divert my eye, my heart, or hand, from an opportunity of expressing how much I am, with the greatest respect,

Your devoted

Humble servant,

FINLAY."

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After

After dispatching the above letter, Lord Finlay spent his time, fluctuating every moment between hope and despair, agitated with all the pains of a solicitous suspense; but Miss Burt was too much attached to him not to agree to his proposal, nor did her condescension at all infringe on her delicacy.—She could not suppose that the good qualities so distinguishable in her lover, and which had been so studiously cultivated by *her father*, could be *only* violated to the dishonor of *his daughter*. Lord Finlay's passion was too ardent to submit to prudence, and could not be long concealed: they met often, and remained long together; time is easily forgot in the society of those we love—In Cupid's dial, *hours* are
but

but *minutes*.—Their interviews were discovered.

Captain Lewis being informed of it, jealous of his honor, insisted on Lord Finlay's instantly espousing his grand-daughter; who, loaded with his reproaches, led away by his passion, and the fears of being interdicted from seeing her more—forgot every thing but the justification of his honorable intentions.

The indignation with which Lord Munster was seized, when informed of this marriage, is easier to be conceived than delineated. He swore he would never see his son more, or contribute to his support!

The passions are more easily excited in the young than in the old; in
women,

women, as being of a frame more delicate than in men; in the poor and distressed, than in the rich and fortunate, for prosperity hardens the heart; in the illiterate than in the learned, because more prone to admire; and for the same reason in those who have lived privately, than in men of large experience; but when once fixed, are not so easily eradicated as in the others.

The indiscreet solicitations of a gentleman in the neighbourhood, served only to exasperate him *the more*. A weak friend, if he will be kind, ought to go no further than wishes: if he either says or does more, it is *dangerous*. Good intentions are indispensable to constitute a good man; but other adjuncts are necessary to form the man

who interferes in our behalf. An excellent cause has often suffered through an indifferent advocate; and I once heard of a lawyer retained by his client, to *hold his peace for him*.

In consequence of Lord Munster's implacability, Lord and Lady Finlay were involved in a variety of wretchedness, and most affecting distress; under all which they bore up with becoming fortitude, and never departed from that dignity of behaviour, which innate virtue, and conscious innocence inspire; strengthened by true principles of religion, and a rational trust in providence, tempered with genuine humility, and unfeigned resignation to whatever fate should be allotted them. In every action of their lives they had a view to each other: if they were serious, or chearful, amused,

amused, or grieved, still by their sympathy and love, every trifle made a pleasure, and every pleasure was heightened into rapture, by their mutual participation of it. Their hearts exulted with that joy which is built on the strong foundation of undissembled tenderness. Happy it is for mortals, that grief is only an exotic in the human breast—the soil does not naturally afford nutriment for its constant growth. A perfect similarity of sentiment soon produced that mutual happiness which arises from loving another better than one's self: they were no longer anxious for events they could not direct, nor tasted pain from the disappointment of their hopes.

The half-pay of Captain Lewis, was the only ostensible support of this unfortunate

fortunate family, increased by the birth of several children : but their income had been enlarged, by Mr. Burt's literary productions. His greatest enjoyment was in study—pleasures vary with each different age ; for God and nature never made any faculty, either in soul or body, but he prepared a suitable object, in order to its regular gratification.

The follies of men of a certain age, on this account, have the pre-eminence to all others, a ridiculous dignity, that gives them a right *to be laughed at in the first place*. The phenomenon of seeing amorous pursuits under grey hairs, may as much astonish us, as to see those mountains whose top is covered with snow, and whose bowels abound with flames. Mr. Burt had a happy temper,
formed

formed on the principles of Christian philosophy. Such was his chearfulness, that none of the accidents of life could discompose him ; such his fortitude, that not even the severest trials could unman him. He had a collected spirit, and on no occasion wanted a resource. He could retire within himself, and hold the world at defiance.

This amiable daughter possessed also these qualities, in an eminent degree. Captain Lewis dying, their circumstances were reduced ; but Lady Finlay, by her ingenuity, supplied the loss they sustained in his half-pay. She had a fine genius for painting, and in that art did wonders. By the sale only of a *Crucifixion*, and an *Arcadia*, she maintained her family for two years. She concealed her name, lest she should
irritate

irritate Lord Munster more against her; but had too much good sense to be ashamed of employing those talents, bestowed on her by nature, for *so natural a purpose*. And the hours that the *indolent* devote to *rest*, and the *licentious* to *pleasure*, she dedicated to providing bread for her family. Good blood cannot be kept up, without the shambles of the market, so it is no scandal to procure *that* by ingenuity, or industry, when the appendages of gentility are so far reduced, as not to afford it otherwise.

The picture called Arcadia, is in the possession of the Marquis of P——. In it there is exhibited a view of the most delightful region, with the grandest rural scenery in the world; and a romantic wildness runs through the whole, which gives uncommon beauties

ties to the piece. Her happy fancy, and the prospects in the country, (~~they had retired to Wales for cheapness~~) supplied her with vales more charming, than those of *Juan Fernandez*, with lawns like those of *Tinian*, and finer water-falls than those of *Quibo*. She copied the greatest beauties in nature, and formed the finest imitations. The invention of the whole is extremely pleasing; and has been applauded by all who have seen it, as a master piece in the landscape way.

Lady Finlay's health decreasing, she could no longer *exert this talent*; and the miserable situation to which her Lord was reduced, in consequence of his attachment to her, afforded her constant uneasiness. The griping hand of poverty, produced painful fears,
and

and corroding cares, while the anxiety of mind *each* suffered for *the other*, increased their *mutual calamity*.

The death of two fine children at last entirely subdued Lady Finlay's remaining spirits—She died in child-bed, (the infant surviving her a few hours) leaving behind her only two children. It was then Lord Finlay's cup of affliction was filled. He had reason to fear, the deceased, dearest object of his tenderest affections, had perished for want of proper assistance. *Assistance!* their scanty circumstances denied! If previous to this, when he perceived in her any marks of sorrow, it was to him as if all nature had been eclipsed; what must have been his sensations *then?* they were too great for humanity to support! His reason forsook

him ; and the third day after her decease, he expired in the delirium of madness.

Nothing can give a better sense of the consideration man ought to have of his latter end, than the following lines of Sir Thomas More :

“ You’d weep, if sure you’d but one month
to stay ;

Yet laugh, uncertain of a single day !”

Few are the happy marriages contracted contrary to the consent of parents.—Disobedience to them, like murder, seldom goes unpunished in this life*. Mr. Burt wrote Lady Frances Finlay a letter, informing her of the melancholy catastrophe of this unfortunate couple, and beseeching her in-

* See the Fifth Commandment.

terest with Lord Munster, in behalf of their helpless progeny.

“ Could tears, Madam,” said he, “ write as legibly as ink, my streaming eyes would be an inexhaustible fund, to assist me to send you the woes of a poor old man, and to pour forth the sorrows of my soul ! But *Cicero* could not have *described*, *Apelles* could not have *painted*, nor *Roscius* have *represented*, the heart-rending scenes I have lately witnessed.”

Lord Munster died the day before his daughter received the above letter. He had for some time before lost all sensation. The pleasures or pains of others, were to him of so little importance, that he lived as if he had been, the only creature ~~himself~~ ^{himself} in the universe. He could not bear to

hear of the applause, some of his opponents in politics had acquired, and grudged them a reputation, he thought only suitable to his own distinguished abilities. Different from that conqueror, of whom it is said he silenced the whole earth, he fancied that the whole world must talk of his disgrace. He could not support it; and a pistol put an end to his wretched existence. A careful observer of events will frequently see, that flagrant vices are punished by some remarkable strokes of wretchedness, and bad dispositions made sensible of the evils they bring on others. Never did any Greek or Roman commit suicide, from too quick a sense of private misfortunes.—Vain glory in the vulgar may be supportable,
~~—~~ nay,

may, may be diverting; but in a great man it is *intolerable*: nothing is greater in a man, than to be above even greatness *itself*.

Lady Frances was left by her father, the entire possession of the family estate.—She immediately wrote to Mr. Burt, desiring he would leave a place, which must necessarily revive in him such melancholy ideas, and bring her nephew and niece to Munster house; inclosing him a sum of money to discharge debts, and to defray the expences of the journey. He instantly complied with her request, and resided with her, though she immediately not only settled on him, the annuity he had formerly been promised, but also paid the arrears due on it.

Had Lord and Lady Finlay lived a few weeks longer, Lady Frances would have chearfully assigned to them the estate bequeathed to her, and which their virtues so justly entitled them to.

It is a strong argument for a state of retribution hereafter, that in this world *virtuous people* are often *very miserable*, and *vicious ones happy*, which is wholly repugnant to the nature of a Being, who appears infinitely wise and good in all his works, unless we may suppose, that such a promiscuous, and undistinguishing distribution of good and evil, which was necessary for carrying on the designs of Providence in this life, will be rectified and made amends for in another.

Lady Frances possessed the most attractive beauty, was surrounded with
every

every grace, and blessed with every virtue, that could enslave the affections, and captivate the soul of the most stubborn philosophers. The sound of her voice had an engaging sweetness; and her expressions were well chose, without being affected.—In a word, it was her character and mind that gave charms to her person. Lord Darnley made his addresses to her, in which he had been countenanced by Lord Munster, and every preparation was making for their nuptials, before her father's death.

Lord Darnley was one of the most amiable of men. He gave a grace to every thing he said—a refined and delicate wit enlivened all his discourse, and the vivacity of his imagination discovered itself continually in fresh

fallies. But what irresistibly fixed Lord Munster's partiality, was the art with which he disguised his *own wit* and *knowledge*, to make *him shine*. He conformed entirely, to that pleasing criterion of true humour, which Mr. Addison gave,—“That it looks grave itself, while it makes all others laugh.” He had a turn for placing things in a ridiculous point of view, which was highly diverting—but by this he never offended; he formed his ridicule on a circumstance, which the party attacked, was not in his heart unwilling to grant him; that he was guilty of an excess in something which in itself was laudable*.

* Pliny recommends ridicule as an admirable weapon against vice. It is surely better here employed, than as Shaftesbury recommends it, for the test of truth.

He

He very well understood what he chose to be, what was his predominant passion, and knew he need not fear his anger, for declaring he was a little *too much the thing*.

Nice raillery is a decent mixture of praise and reproach; it touches slightly upon little failings, only to dwell the more upon great qualities. I believe what renders courtiers pleasing, is the attention they pay to the self-love of others. I shall only add, that the politeness of Lord Darnley's manners, would not suffer him to omit any of those engaging attentions which are so capable of pleasing; and as he was deeply in love with Lady Frances, he inspired her with mutual sentiments. How then must it surprise
the

the world to find, that upon her sudden acquisition of wealth, the marriage did not take place ! The philosopher, experienced in the vicissitudes of human events, views such sudden dissolutions of the most intimate connections, without surprise or amazement. In regard to the moral and political world, it is not always great and adequate causes, that produce strange and surprising events ; on the contrary, they often are the result of things seemingly small, and utterly disproportionate to their effects. The same constant fluctuation that attends the seasons, and all the appendages of the globe we inhabit, affects the heart of man, making it a prey, by turns, to different passions.

The

The well-regulated mind alone, can boast of any degree of consistency, and *that* too often late in life, the product of long experience, and unnumbered cares. It was in vain Lord Darnley declared the disinterestedness of his passion, and intreated Lady Frances, to settle the property of the family out of his power, previous to her marriage.

She remained unmoved; only assured him, that nothing but what she apprehended was her first duty, could alienate her from him, and that she never would dispose of herself to any *other*: but advised him to marry. She applied herself intirely to the care of her family, and to the improvement of that property, invested in her person.

Living intirely in the country, she sought, in the beauty of nature, in science,

science, and the love of order, that satisfaction, which in the world (where people are the *slaves of apology, and the dupes of caprice*) is eagerly pursued, but *never found*. It is principally on this account, that people in general, are so often declaiming against human life. She considered society is manifestly maintained by a circulation of kindness: we are all of us, in some way or other, wanting assistance, and in like manner qualified to give it. None are in a state of independency on their fellow-creatures. The most slenderly endowed, are not a mere burthen on the community; even they can contribute their share to the common good. We learn what are justly our mutual claims, from this mutual dependency; that on its account, as
well

well as for other reasons, our life is not to pass in a round of pleasure, or idleness, or according to the suggestions of mere fancy, or in sordid or selfish pursuits. Can there be any thing more evidently our duty, than that we should return the kindness we receive; than that, if many are employed in promoting our interest, we should be as intent in advancing theirs? All men are by nature equal: their common passions and affections, their common infirmities, their common wants, give such constant remembrances of this equality, even to those who are most disposed to forget it, that they cannot, with all their endeavours, render themselves unmindful of it. They cannot become *insensible*, how unwilling soever they may be to *consider*, that their debt

is

is as much their demands, as they owe to others as much as they reasonably can expect from them. It is not to be supposed that Providence would have made such distinctions among men, such unequal distributions, but that they might endear themselves to one another by mutual helps and obligations. Gratitude is the surest bond of love, friendship, and society.

The various conditions of human life seem so admirably adapted to the several dispositions of individuals, that if our happiness in this life were intended, the unequal distribution of the gifts of fortune affords the most plausible means to effect it. Through nature, indeed, love is centered at home, and not improperly, though the most amiable and God-like is, the most diverged.

verged. But as the principle regards of human love, are, for the much greater part, over selfish and contracted, the divine goodness has so directed its operations, as to render them necessary, and very often unintentionally productive of common social good. I have often observed, that people favoured by fortune seldom feel for the pain of the mind, even though they themselves are the authors of it; their pity alone is excited by certain disgraces, certain exterior evils, such as sickness and poverty. This was by no means the case with Lady Frances, who interested herself in the distresses of the soul, with a goodness equally noble and judicious, and offered to the unhappy, all those labouring under any
species

species of innocent distress, consolation and relief.

Her education taught her, that *virtue* and *abilities* can only procure us real happiness, and that nothing but *doing good*, in that sphere of life in which we are placed, can afford true felicity to a noble soul. Upon her father's death she found herself possessed of an estate of twenty thousand pounds a year, and three hundred thousand pounds in mortgages. The house and pleasure grounds were in great disrepair, from the late Earl's constant residence in London, and the *environs*. Lady Frances sent for Mr. Brown, who found great *capabilities* in the situation: under his direction, it is now one of the finest places in England. She acquainted him of her intention of build-

ing a number of houses, for the reception of artificers, and the introduction of certain manufactures. He fixed upon a beautiful situation, at the side of a navigable river. Mr. Adams approved very much of the plan, Lady Frances submitted to his inspection—he perfected and improved it. It consisted of one hundred houses ; and a *tribuna* * in the center. Upon the solid foundation of the Doric, the Ionic, and Corinthian orders, rise gradually with all their beauty, proportion, and ornaments.

* *Tribuna*, a term applied to a building quite round, or such as consists of many sides and angles, as the famous room within the great Duke's gallery at Florence: sometimes it is applied for a building, whose area or plan is semicircular, as the section of a cupola.

The fabric seizes the most in-
 curious eye. No modern building is
 comparable to it for the outward de-
 corations; and for the disposition
 within, it has been formed, from what-
 ever ancient and modern times afford,
 most adapted and suitable to the pur-
 pose of the structure, not excluding
 decorations, which are distributed with
 equal taste and œconomy. The sciences
 and arts are assembled together, in this
 fine building, and connected (if I may
 be allowed the expression) by a large
 and well chosen library in all faculties:
 Here is whatever the lower people's in-
 terest, or the man of taste's curiosity
 can desire. The first object that pre-
 sents itself to the eye, on entering
 into this noble hall, which is no less
 spacious than splendid, is the statue of
 the

the founder, inviting the lovers of literature, to make use of the helps, which she has provided for them. This statue is of white marble, as large as life, and entirely worthy of Mr. More, the artist; who has improved the exact likeness with an air of grandeur, and benevolence, dignity and affability.

And what is a very well chosen ornament for such a place, there is a representation of nine of the most eminent libraries—the Babylonian, Athenian, Alexandrian, Palatine, &c.—with short inscriptions giving an account of each. And to set in view, the origin and first advance of learning, in several countries—there are painted on large pilasters, ranged along the middle of the library, those persons, who were

F 2

reputed

reputed to have been the inventor of letters, in several languages. Adam, Abraham, Moses, Mercurius, Ægyptius, Hercules, Cadmus, Cecrops, Pythagoras, and several others, with the letters, which each of these are said to have invented, written under their pictures.

This library is open at stated times, (like that of the Vatican, and the French king's) with every proper accommodation to all strangers. This was greatly wanted in this kingdom. London, after so many ages, remains without any considerable public library. The best is the Royal Society's : but even that is inconsiderable ; neither is it open to the public ; nor are the necessary conveniencies afforded strangers for reading or transcribing. The British
Museum

Museum is rich in manuscripts, the Harleian Collection, the Cottonian Library, the collection of Charles I. and many others, especially on our own history ; but it is wretchedly poor in printed books : and it is not sufficiently accessible to the public ; their revenue not being sufficient to enable them, to pay a proper number of attendants*.

An ingenious Persian lately in England, gave an account of many thousand Arabian manuscripts, totally unknown to the gentlemen, of the university of Oxford. It is to be wished these were procured. The Orientals

* The reason polite literature is more cultivated in Paris than London, is on account of the university libraries, and academies of the former.

and Hebrews were the parents of knowledge, and the Greeks no more than their scholars : how gross were their notions of prudence and *virtue*, till Orpheus, and the travelled philosophers, taught them better ! The institutions of modern nations, are not to be compared to those of the ancients, as almost all these had the advantage, of being founded by philosophers. Athens and Sparta were the two first formed states of Greece. Solon and Lycurgus, who had seen the success of the plan, conducted, by Minos in Crete, and who partly copied after that wise prince, erected these two celebrated republics. The sagacious system of Egypt, served as a model to all the east.

The

The astronomical observatory is furnished with the best instruments ; anatomy has an amphitheatre, and a spacious room filled with a compleat set of anatomical pieces in wax.

Painting and sculpture, besides a most convenient apartment for the study and practice of these arts, have two large rooms full of models of the most valuable remains of antiquity, taken from their originals.

The pupils of architecture have a hall, crouded with designs and models of the finest pieces, antient and modern—and there are contiguous apartments where all the liberal sciences are read and taught, as logic, physic, ethics, metaphysics, astronomy, geography, geometry, &c.

This assemblage of studies in every branch is further enriched with curious museums of antiques, and natural history. All these advantages are heightened by the lectures of able professors in every art and every science.

This academy receives two hundred scholars, affords them a liberal support, and leads them through a perfect course of education ; from the first elements of letters, through the whole circle of the sciences ; from the lowest class of grammatical learning, to the highest degrees in the several faculties. It properly and naturally consists of two parts, rightly forming two establishments, the one subordinate to the other. The design of the one was to lay the foundation of science ; that of the other, to raise and compleat the super-

superstructure : the former was to supply the latter with proper subjects ; and the latter was to improve the advantages received in the former.

The young gentlemen in the neighbourhood are permitted to receive instructions from the several professors—and a day is set apart, when they examine young people, in order to discover wherein their genius consists, and to what kind of studies or employments they naturally are suited. Every man finds in himself a particular bent and disposition, to some particular character ; and his struggling against it, is the fruitless and endless labour of Sisyphus. Let him follow and cultivate *that* vocation, he will succeed in it, and be considerable in one way at least ; whereas, if he departs from it, he

he will at best be *inconsiderable*, probably *ridiculous*. Cicero said, that masters should consider the nature of their scholars, least they should act like unskilful husbandmen, who would sow wheat in a soil, that was only proper for oats. Might it not prove an useful institution, if public societies were erected on this plan? By this means, most subjects might become beneficial to the public; and not only the arts be brought to perfection, but all the posts of government, be well supplied: whereas, we now daily hear complaints, of the want of proper persons to direct affairs, whilst the youth are condemned to studies; and matriculated into certain arts, or employments, before they arrive at years of *discretion*.

Some

Some parents on the birth of a son, determine what profession he is to be of. The father sometimes designs his son for a judge, because his grand-father was one*, which may be as absurd as to design a *weakly child* for a *running footman*, or a *purblind boy* for a *painter*. Sometimes a young man is to be a colonel because he is tall, or an alderman because he has a large belly.

When any remarkable genius displayed itself in any of the young

• The Chinese are said to adapt an admirable piece of policy ; the son is always of the father's trade, which makes them admirable artificers. May not this be the cause of the small progress the arts have made in that part of the world, and of the dull uniformity and want of taste that distinguishes all their works ?

men,

men, their talents were cultivated for that art or science. The master for oratory, was recommended by Mr. Sheridan, who says that the art of oratory may be taught, upon as certain principles, and with as good a prospect of success, as it ever was, by the rhetoricians of Greece or Rome, or as the arts of music, painting, &c. are taught by their several professors. He formed himself on Quintilian's institutes of eloquence, who particularly recommends *chironomy*, or gracefulness of action, which took rise in the age of heroism, was practised by the greatest men in Greece, was approved of by Socrates, ranked by Plato amongst the civil virtues, and recommended by Chrysippus in his treatise upon the education of youth. Quintilian had
the

the acquisition of an hundred years after Cicero's death, to improve his knowledge——he had greater opportunities, than Cicero ever had, to study “that intellectual relation, that secret charm, in the liberal professions, which, connecting one to the other, combines them all.”

One angle of the *tribuna*, is entirely dedicated to the education of women. Twenty young ladies are admitted, and there are funds for their perpetual maintenance, as that of the two hundred scholars. In the selection of these young gentlewomen, she always gives the preference to those, who labour under any imperfection of body—endeavouring, by increasing their resources *within themselves*, to compensate for their *outward defects*. When
it

it is found that any of these ladies have a taste for any manual or mental art, they cultivate it, and assist them in the pleasantest means, and by various little attentions, confirm these inclinations with all the spirit of pursuit, requisite to preserve minds (in general) from that state of languidness and inactivity, whereby life is rendered irksome to those, who have never found it unfortunate. In this establishment she entirely runs counter to that of Madame de Maintenon's at Saint Cyr; where the young women, who should have been instructed in rural labours, and œconomy in the duties of a family, in the employments of *Solomon's virtuous women*, by their education, were only fit to be addressed by men who were rich enough to require in a wife
nothing

nothing *but virtue*. This is also the foible of too many parents, who all expect their daughters are to fill exalted stations in life, and by educating them with that view, disqualify them for their after lot.

As divines say that some people take more pains to be damned than it would cost them to be saved, so many people employ more thought, memory, and application, to be fools, than would serve to make them wise and useful members of society. The ancients esteemed it an honor to understand the making of every thing ^{and self} necessary for *use* ~~life and self~~, without any dependence on others; and it is that, which Homer most commonly calls *wisdom*, and *knowledge*. He describes old Eumæus making his own shoes, and says, he had

had built some fine stalls for the cattle he bred. Ulysses himself built his own house, and set up his bed with great art, the structure of which served to make him known to Penelope again. When he left Calypso, it was he alone that built and rigged the ship.—From all which we see the spirit of these ancient times.

These young ladies are not instructed to declaim with grace, or sing with taste; but if they are less amusing, they are infinitely more useful and interesting companions, to those they afterwards associate with, whether in the character of wives or friends. Several of them have married very well in the neighbourhood. There is no sentiment more cold, or of shorter continuance, than admiration. We

grow weary of a set of features, though ever so beautiful. Between folly, and a homely person, there is this difference; the latter is constantly the same, at least with imperceptible alteration, whilst folly is ever putting on some new appearance, and giving, by that means, fresh pain and disgust. However true this may be, I believe it would require some rhetoric to convince a young man not to prefer the folly that accompanies beauty, to wisdom and deformity. Though Sir Francis Bacon assures us in his natural philosophy, that our taste is never better pleased, than with those things, which at first created a disgust in us. He gives particular instances of porter, olives, and other things, which the palate seldom approves of at first ;

but when it has once got a relish of them, generally retains it for life.

The streets, which were built on each side of the *Tribuna*, were uniform, and the houses ornamented with emblematical figures, of the different trades intended for the possessors. She permitted them to live rent-free for the two first years, and admitted none but such who excelled in their art. This was certainly very political—By encouraging them in this manner, it enabled them at first to work, and sell their manufactures at a moderate rate; which insured them the business of the neighbouring counties, that would otherwise have ^{been} sent at a greater distance, for what could be equally produced at home*.

The

* The enormous taxes the Spaniards lay on manufactures are the ruin of trade, which would

The size of the houses decreases gradually, from the centre of every street. As Lady Frances spared no expence in the execution, Mr. Adams directed it with the greatest taste and propriety. The smallest houses are, indeed, externally, the handsomest, on account of their twisted columns; yet, as they convey an idea of weakness, they always displease, when they are made use of as supports to heavy buildings. The different orders succeed each other, from the Corinthian to the Tuscan, according to the size of the houses. Mr. Hogarth observes on this head,

would otherwise flourish; and the people are reduced, by that misconduct in their rulers, to purchase from their enemies things they themselves could produce, if the artificers met with proper encouragement.

that the bulks and proportions of objects, are governed by fitness and propriety; that it is this which has established the size and proportion of chairs, tables, and all sorts of utensils and furniture; has fixed the dimensions of pillars, arches, &c. for the support of great weights; and so regulated all the orders in architecture.

In the course of ten years Lady Frances brought all the above plans to perfection; which she the more easily effected, from Mr. Burt's having maintained a correspondence with the *literati*, in most parts of the world. And as the encouragement given, was great, it is not surprising, that her academy became a seat of the muses, and a place to which many resorted, for the solution of literary doubts.

If

If their ears were enchanted by harmony, their eyes were equally ravished by the beauties of painting and sculpture. In this charming mansion is blended the improvement of the arts, with that of philosophy: an exquisite assemblage of all the sweets of life. Architecture, statuary, painting, and music, find in her a patroness. Refinement of taste in a nation, is always accompanied with refinement of manners. People accustomed to behold order and elegance in public buildings, and public gardens, acquire urbanity in private. The Italians, on the revival of the liberal arts and sciences, gave them the name of *virtù*; from this was derived the term of *virtuoso*, which has been accepted throughout Europe. Should not this appellation intimate, to

those who assume it to themselves, that the study of what is beautiful, in nature or art, ought to render them more virtuous than other men. Exclusive of the above buildings, there are others finely adapted to their different purposes, at the same time calculated to ornament the grounds. There are manufactories of different kinds; and silks wrought by hydraulic machines, which renders the workmanship more easy and expeditious. Lady Frances procured artificers from Tuscany for a porcelaine manufactory, which has continued with them from the ancient Etruscans. She has also established a manufactory of earthen ware, procuring models of Etruscan vases in Terra Cotta, made after those in the Vatican library. These are
 9 used

used even in the most common vessels. She also took some pains in regulating the dress of the young women. A country girl returning from the spring with a pitcher of water on her head, perfectly resembles those figures which the most exquisite antiques represent in the same attitude. The great share *variety* has in producing beauty, may be seen in the ornamental part of nature; the shapes and colours of plants, flowers, leaves; the painting in butterflies wings, shells, &c. which seem of little other intended use, than that of entertaining the eye with the pleasure of variety: in this all the senses delight and are equally averse to sameness—The ear is as much

the eye is with being fixed to a point, or to the view of a dead wall.

Every building is rendered ornamental to the grounds. There is a botanical garden, which is filled with plants and flowers, which have been presented to Linnæus, from whom she received them, from every part of the globe. One of his pupils resides here, in an elegant habitation, in which there is a rotunda where lectures on botany are given: this fine room is surrounded with exotic plants. Mr. Burt entirely concurred with Linnæus, in wishing, that gentlemen designed for theological studies were directed to apply as much time to the study of physics as they spent in metaphysics and logic, which he judges neither so indispensably necessary, nor useful as the former.

Lady

Lady Frances also erected an hospital for the reception of two hundred incurables ; a thing much wanted in this kingdom, without paying any regard to their country, religion, or disease, requiring no security in case of death. The practice of most of the public hospitals in this country is widely different, the restrictions of admission being such as frequently deprive many from receiving the benefit first intended by the founder. But she had a fund of charity of another stamp, which gave her infinitely more pleasure, as it was free from the ostentation of those acts of public bounty. These were private donations to those whose circumstances were not yet so bad as to oblige them to beg publicly. If an industrious tradesman had a numerous

merous family, little business, or a small stock, she found means to supply his wants, or put him in a way of carrying on his business to greater advantage, in such a manner, as that sometimes he himself did not know the source of his relief; at most, none but the party succoured, and Mr. Burt, knew any thing of the matter, for this worthy man was her secret almoner, and searched out for the secret necessities of modest and industrious poor. She had the happiness arising from the consciousness of having maintained numerous families in decent plenty, who, without her well-timed and secret bounty, must have been a charge to the parish. But she was a great enemy to poor-rates, judging with Davenant, that they will be the bane of our manufactures.

Lady

Lady Frances was far from being alarmed at the great expences of her undertakings. She thought her large fortune, and her nephew's long minority, as it put it in her power, could not be better employed than in works of national magnificence. The power and wealth of ancient Greece were most seen and admired in the splendor of the temples, and other sublime structures of Pericles. He boasted, that every art would be exerted, every hand employed, every citizen in the pay of the state, and the city, not only beautified, but maintained by itself. The sums Lady Frances expended in bringing these plans to perfection, diffused riches and plenty among the people, and has already doubled the estate. She has a fine collection of pictures.—
The

The only way to raise a genius for painting, is to give encouragement : historical painters get so little by their profession, that we have very few. This Lady Frances made her particular object, to afford our youth ready access to good pictures : till these be multiplied in Great Britain, we shall never have the reputation of producing a good painter. If we expect to rival the Italian, the Flemish, or even the French school, our artists must have before their eyes the finished works of the greatest masters. It is a pity, that when an ingenious gentleman * last winter submitted to the parliament, as worthy of their attention,

* Mr. Wilkes, in the motion to refer to the consideration of the committee of supply the petition of the trustees of the *British Museum*.

some

some considerations that might tend to the encouragement of useful knowledge, and the advancement in this kingdom of the arts and sciences, he did not with his usual intelligence, represent the bad consequences of the duty laid on pictures imported into Great Britain : Were the bad effects of this represented to our legislature, it is impossible but it must be amended. This gentleman took notice in his speech, that a remarkable opportunity of improving the national taste in *painting*, which was lately lost, he hoped would now be recovered. The incomparable Sir Joshua Reynolds, and some other great painters, who do honor to our country, generously offered to adorn the cathedral of St. Paul's, (a glorious monument
of

of the magnificence of our ancestors) with some of their most valuable works : but the proposition was rejected by the late Bishop of London*, though he flatters himself it will be renewed, and accepted by the gentleman at present in that seat†, who is not only a man of *solid piety*, but of the *soundest learning*, and of *exquisite classical taste*. The great art of human life is not to eradicate the passions, but to adopt the proper objects of them : if mankind cannot think so abstractedly as a pure effort of unmixed reason implies, I presume it follows, that some degree of passion is warrantable in devotion. While we are in our

* Dr. Richard Terrick.

† Dr. Robert Lowth.

present imperfect and embodied state, it will be found necessary to call in *externals* to our aid, for the proper discharge of religious worship. Even among those who in their private devotions are most sincere, external acts and ceremonies, when properly conducted, become real assistances; because the connection between the body and soul, between the senses and the imagination, between the passions and the reason of mankind, is so strong and mutual, that they uniformly act and re-act upon one another, and mutually raise the soul to new and higher degrees of fervor.

This was so much Lady Frances's opinion, that she had some fine pieces of painting in her chapel, which is also a very fine new building; the
archi-

architecture and paintings do honor to the artists—She made it a rule to be constant in her attendance at church. Public acknowledgments of the goodness of God, and application for his blessings, contribute to give a whole community suitable apprehensions of him : and these, if it was her duty to entertain, it was equally her duty to propagate ; both as the regard she paid the divine excellencies was expressed, and as the same advantage that she received from such apprehensions, was received by all whom they affected in the same manner.

She had not the smallest degree of superstition, having too much good sense to imagine, the Deity can be persuaded to recede, from the settled laws of the universe, and the immutability of his nature.

nature. But she knows the perfections of God are a ground, and sufficient reason for prayer, and that it is both an act and a means of virtue*. She had a mind free from prejudice, adorned with knowledge, and filled with the best principles; a noble firmness in showing those principles, and in maintaining them; in short, every talent joined to the most amiable modesty. She was advised to call her elegant village by the name of *Athens*; but this she declined, naming it *Munster*

* We may quote from the *Zendavesta*, a wise and benevolent maxim, which compensates for many an absurdity. He who sows the ground with care and diligence, acquires a greater stock of religious merit than he could gain by the repetition of ten thousand prayers.

Zoroaster's Institutes.

Village : but she justly thought it deserved it ; with this difference, that the inhabitants are too well informed to give into such gross superstitions, and so easily suffer themselves to be imposed upon by astrologers, divines, sooth-sayers, and many other sorts of conjurers, as the Grecians did.

They excelled in arts ; their laws were wise ; they had brought every thing to perfection that makes life easy and agreeable : but they took little pains in the speculative sciences, geometry, astronomy, and physics. The anatomy of plants and animals, the knowledge of minerals and meteors, the shape of the earth, the course of the stars, and the whole system of the world, were still mysteries to them.

The

The Chaldeans and Egyptians, who knew something of them, kept it a great secret and never spoke of them but in riddles; so that until Alexander's time, and the reign of the Macedonians, they had made no great progress in such learning as might cure them of superstition. An immoderate love of the study of astrology, was a weakness which characterized also the fifteenth century. In the age of Lewis XIV, the court was infatuated with the notion of judicial astrology: many of the princes, through a superstitious pride, supposed that nature, to distinguish them, had writ their destiny in the stars. Victor Amadeus, Duke of Savoy, father to the Duchess of Burgundy, had an astrologer always with him, even after his abdication. The same

weakness which gave credit to the absurd chimera, judicial astrology, also occasioned the belief of forcery and witchcraft; courts of justice composed of magistrates, who ought to have had more sense than the vulgar, were employed in trying persons accused of witchcraft.—Latest posterity must hear with astonishment that the Madame d'Ancre was burnt at the *Grève* as a sorceress. This unfortunate woman, when questioned by counsellor Courtin concerning the kind of forcery she had used to influence the will of Mary de Medecis, having answered, *She had used that power only which great souls always have over weak minds*; this sensible reply served only to precipitate the decree of her death*.

* See Voltaire's Hist. of the age of Lewis XIV.

It must be confessed there is a strong propensity in man's nature, to assign every thing uncommon to supernatural means. But though I am very apt to believe there is greater credulity in most minds, than will be candidly acknowledged, yet the degree of it must be in proportion to people's ignorance and want of information. Thus the famous doctors of the faculty at Paris, when John Faustus brought the first printed books that had then been seen in the world, or at least seen there, and sold them for manuscripts, were surpris'd at the performance, and questioned Faustus about it; but he affirming they were manuscripts, and that he kept a great many clerks employed to write them, they were satisfied. Looking further, however, into the

work, and observing such an exact uniformity throughout the whole, that if there was a blot in one, it was the same in all, &c. &c. &c. their doubts were revived. The learned divines not being able to comprehend the thing, (and that was always sufficient) concluded it must be the *devil*; that it was done by magic and witchcraft; and that, in short, poor Faustus (who was indeed nothing but a mere printer) dealt with the *devil*.

They accordingly took him up for a *magician* and a *conjuror*, and one that worked by the *Black Art*, that is to say, by the help of the devil—and threatened to hang him; commencing a process against him in their criminal courts; when the fear of the gallows induced
Faustus

Faustus to *discover the secret*—that he had been a compositor to Koster of Harlem, the first inventor of printing.

Gardening made a much slower progress among the ancients, than architecture. The palace of Alcinous, in the seventh book of the *Odyssæy*, is grand and highly ornamented; but his garden is no better than what we call a kitchen garden. This also Lady Frances excelled in. She had also a receptacle for all sorts of animals to retire to in their old age. It was of old the custom to bury the favourite dog near the master. To use those of the brute creation who toil for our pleasure, or labour for our profit, with hard and ungenerous treatment, is a species of inhumanity which all men allow to be derogatory from virtue.

The authors of wanton cruelty towards the dumb creation, are justly execrated for their brutality. It is a crime which I believe many commit, without either considering the misery *it produces*, or the guilt *it incurs* : and many more, who in fits of causeless or capricious displeasure intend to inflict the misery, have yet no sense that they incur guilt. Lady Frances makes use of buffaloes to draw her ploughs. These animals are far stronger than oxen, and eat less. Why have we not them in this country, and dromedaries and camels ?

She cultivates India corn, which grows with vast reeds, which is of great use ; and has attempted the culture of rice, and some other things upon boggy ground, with tolerable success. As our cork used to come from France,
and

and now grows in Italy, she has tried it here, where it thrives amazingly ; it resembles the evergreen oak, and bears acorns. When you strip other trees of their bark, they die ; but this grows stronger, and produces a new coat. She leaves nothing unattempted which has a chance of becoming useful. She also procured sheep from Norway, which are peculiar from having four horns, and being spotted like deer, with a coat of a substance betwixt the hair and wool, which is admirable for many uses.

Edward IV. has been greatly censured, as taking a very impolitic and injurious measure in making a present to the King of Spain of some Cotswold sheep ; the breed of which has
been

been very detrimental to the English woollen manufactory, which has been a national branch of trade ever since. The celebrated Buffon affirms, that our sheep are very far removed from their natural state ; from which it has been the usual course of things to decline.

Lady Frances cultivates silk-worms. The ancient Romans for a long time never dreamed that silk could be produced in their country ; and the first silk ever seen in Greece, was after the conquest of Persia by Alexander the Great. From thence it was imported into Italy, but was sold at the rate of an equal weight of gold.*

The Persians being the only people

* Vid. Vopiscus in Aureliano.

of whom it was to be had, would not permit a single egg or worm to be carried out of their country. Hence the ancient Greeks and Romans were so little acquainted with the nature of silk, that they imagined it grew like a vegetable. *Holofericum*, or a stuff made of silk only, was worn by none but ladies of the first rank.* But men of the greatest quality, and even princes, were contented with *subsericum*, or a stuff made of half silk; so that *Heliogabulus* is remarked for being the first who wore *holofericum*†. In the reign of the emperor *Justinian*,

* *Tacitus Annal. 11. Flav. Vopiscus in vita Taciti Imperat.*

† *Ælius Lampridius in vita Heliogabali. Primus Romanorum holoferica veste usus fertur, cum jam subserica in usu essent.*

a trial was made for bringing silk-worms alive to Constantinople, but without success; however, two monks who had been employed in the affair, repeated the trial with silk-worms eggs*. The experiment succeeded so well, that to this Constantinopolitan colony, all the silk-worms, and silk manufactures in Europe owe their existence and origin. Till the middle of the twelfth century, all the silken stuffs at Rome and other parts of Europe were of Grecian manufacture. But Roger I. King of Sicily, about the year 1138, invading Greece with a fleet of vessels with two or three benches of oars, called Galeæ or Sagittæ (from whence are derived the

* Procop. de bello Goth. p. 345.

words galley and faique) and sacking and plundering Corinth, Thebes, and Athens, brought away to Palermo, among other prisoners, a great number of silk weavers to instruct his subjects in that art. From them, as Otto Trifingensis de gestis Frederici, lib. 1. cap. 23. informs us, the Italians soon learnt the method of manufacturing silk.

Lady Frances did not restrain farmers, or the sons of farmers from shooting, as none are better entitled to game than those whose property is the support of it.

“ See that assemblage of the sons of wealth,
Whose pity and humanity extend
To dumb creation ! with what costly care
They study to preserve the brutal race

From

From *vulgar* persecution ! Truly great
 Were such benevolence, could their design
 Deserve so laudable a name ! — Alas !
 What are they but monopolists in blood,
 That to themselves endeavour to preserve
 Inviolable the cruel privilege
 Of slaughter and destruction ? What is this
 But petty tyranny, th' ambitious child
 Of luxury and pride ? If Heaven indulge
 A right to kill, each free-born Briton sure
 May claim his portion of the carnage. All
 O'er nature's commoners, by nature's law,
 Plead equal privilege : what then supports
 This usurpation in the wealthier tribe ;
 The *qualifying* acres ? no, proud man,
 Possessions give not thee superior claim
 To that, which equally pertains to all —
 Whose property yon timid hare, which feeds
 In thy inclosure ? thine ? denied — allow'd,
 Yet if the fearful animal be thine,
 Because she innocently crops *to-day*
 The herbage of thy freehold, whose will be
 The claim *to-morrow*, when thy neighbour's soil
Affords

much exercise before it arrives at its full strength.

Quintilian compares the understanding of children to vessels into which no liquor can be poured but drop by drop. But there is a certain season, when our minds may be enlarged—when a great stock of useful truths may be acquired—when our passions will readily submit to the government of reason—when right principles may be so fixed in us, as to influence every important action of our future lives. If at that period it is neglected, error or ignorance are, according to the ordinary course of things, entailed upon us. Our passions gain a strength that we afterwards vainly oppose—wrong inclinations become so confirmed

ed in us, that they defeat all our endeavours to correct them. A superior capacity, an ardent thirst for knowledge, and the finest dispositions, soon discovered themselves in Lord Munster; particularly a singular warmth of affection, and disinterestedness of temper. And although experience evinces, that memory, understanding, and fancy, are seldom united in one person, yet he is one of those transcendent geniuses, who is blessed with all three. Mr. Burt treated him always with that distant condescension, which, though it encourages to freedom, commands at the same time respect. He appeared in different characters to him, that he might find something new and agreeable in his conversation.

Montaigne says; “there is nothing like alluring the passions and affections; otherwise we only make asses loaded with books.” Exquisite is the fruit produced by a right temperature of the different qualities, and mixture of the world and philosophy, business and pleasure, dignity and politeness. The Romans termed it *Urbanitas*, the Greeks *Atticism*.

At the age of sixteen years the Earl of Munster having received every advantage education could bestow on him, fully answered the most sanguine expectations his aunt had formed of him. She then insinuated to him his dependent situation—her own intentions of marrying, the great expences she had been at in the various improvements she had made on the estate, which

which rendered it necessary for him to apply himself to business, as it would disable her from doing so much for him as she would have inclined : that as she had bestowed on him every advantage of education, the alternative before him was that of *application* on his part, or the utmost severity of *censure* on that of the world.

Lady Frances adopted this plan with Lord Munster to keep him ignorant of her intentions in his favor, that she might not obstruct his exerting all his physical and moral strength in acquiring that knowledge and virtue he at present so eminently possesses. Though a man of rank born to a large fortune may have fine natural parts, yet it takes a great deal to make him a *great man*. His splendid

titles and large estate, are in some degree a bar to those acquirements, as he rests secure in his rank and independent fortune. How would the number of the nobility be reduced, were only those allowed to assume that title who could make good their claim to it by the distinguished endowments which raised the founder of the family? A man of rank who is a jockey at Newmarket rises no higher in my estimation than the lowest mechanic. Men of literature are the only nobility known in China: In other countries the laws inflict punishment *on criminal actions*: there, they do more; *they reward virtue*. If the fame of a generous action is spread in a province, the mandarin is obliged to acquaint the emperor, who presently sends a badge

badge of honor to the person who has so well deserved it. Be their birth ever so low, they become mandarins of the highest rank, in proportion to the extent of their worth or learning. On the other hand, be their birth ever so exalted, they quickly sink into poverty and obscurity if they neglect these studies which raised their fathers.* †

* See Duhalde's description of China.

† In opposition to this, noblemen and men of fortune bred at the Dublin University, are excused from learning morality, as they can graduate without any skill in that science; the professor making no doubt, but that honesty necessarily springs up with nobility. The same University refused Swift his degree of *Bachelor of Arts* for *dulness and insufficiency*, but he at last obtained it *speciali gratia*.

The care, attention, and labour incumbent on men for their support, invigorate both the soul and the body, and they are the natural causes of health and sagacity. Virtue itself would be indolent if she had no passions to conquer and regulate. It is every way our advantage that we have no such slothful paradise as the poets feigned in the golden age: and the alledged blemishes in nature, are either the unavoidable accompaniments or consequences of a structure, and of laws subservient to advantages, which quite over-balance these inconveniencies, or sometimes the direct and natural means of obtaining those advantages. The situation of the King of Sardinia, environed on all sides with
powerful

powerful monarchs, obliges him to act with the greatest circumspection; which circumstance seems to have formed the character of that house.

—As Lady Frances was desirous^d of her nephew's understanding commerce, she proposed his becoming a merchant:—with great modesty, and deference for her opinion, he submitted to her, whether the confined maxims of a trader were not destructive of the social virtues; if they did not tend to destroy those refined feelings of the soul that distinguish man from man?*

* This Lady Frances entertained no fears about: A French author justly observes, *Jamais on ne prend les vices d'une condition au dessous de la sienne: L'enfant du riche, par un sentiment d'orgueil, hausse les épaules sur les défauts du pauvre.*

She answered, "What situation is like that of a man, who with one stroke of a pen makes himself obeyed from one end of the world to the other? his name, his signature, has no necessity, like the army of a Sovereign, for the value of metal to come to the assistance of the impression: himself does all; he has signed, and that is enough."

Lord Munster replied, "that there were two ranks in life he should prefer as more suitable to the title he bore, though unaccompanied by fortune; the magistrate who supports the laws, or that of the foldier who defends his country!" Highly charmed with his sentiments, it required no small resolution for his aunt, who fondly loved him, to support the character she had assumed;

assumed ; but recollecting herself, observed, that it was not unusual for men of high birth, to enrich their family *by trade*.

When the Earl of Oxford was at the head of affairs in England, his brother was a factor at Aleppo ; and if Lord Townshend was respected in parliament as a secretary of state, his brother was no less regarded in the city as a merchant. Without giving way, added she, to ideas of birth, you may be happy, and by your temper, application, and personal accomplishments, make a figure in life, without the aid of such an accidental *appendage* ; and, by your attainments and engaging qualities, obtain a general esteem, the surest step to advancement and honor.

Lord

Lord Munster seemed *convinced*; though not allured by her arguments, yielding himself to her guidance, with that sweetness of disposition, which though so amiable in itself is so much to be apprehended. For those dispositions of the mind, which are generally termed virtuous, are frequently the occasion of our falling into vices, from which opposite ones, though generally condemned, would have secured us.

In pursuance of Lady Frances's plan, Lord Munster was sent to Holland, where he was boarded for two years, in a creditable family in Amsterdam, as the best school for learning, temperance, œconomy, and every domestic virtue.

Men of all climates and religions,
being

being also natives of Holland, gave him liberal notions and enlarged ideas; their earth is as free as their air. Their toleration of religion, indeed, is so extreme, it amounts to a total unconcern about them. At the same communion, in the same church, some receive sitting, others standing, or kneeling; and this freedom appeared, to that crafty people, such unquestionable policy, that it came in from common sense alone, and passed without a law.* To this

* The Empress Catharine II, whose name will be immortal, gave a code of laws to her empire, which contains a fifth part of the globe; and the first of her laws was to establish universal toleration. In France foreign protestants are admitted to all the rights of natives after working for a certain time in the manufactory of the Gobelines. The same policy has been adopted by the Spaniards.

cause

cause is assigned the number of inhabitants; as the land, fit for tillage in Holland, does not exceed four hundred thousand acres*. This country in itself, furnishes an illustration of the plan, Lady Frances was following with her nephew. Industry, honesty, and concern for the public welfare, made the inhabitants considerable. If they depart from these, and if the sea returns upon them, their having existed, will be known only from tradition, and books. The preservation of both Egypt and Holland, depends upon the

* Rubens's pictures are *a toleration of all religions*. In one of the compartments of the Luxemburgh gallery, a cardinal introduces Mercury to Mary de Medicis, and Hymen supports her train at the sacrament of marriage, before an altar, on which are the images of God the Father, and Christ.

care they take of their dykes, and canals; but there is no work in the former, so great, as the building such a city as Amsterdam, upon piles in the sea*. Venice also furnishes a striking instance, of what wonders may be effected by industry: that out of a morass, a city of such splendor could be raised, and become the emporium of Europe, as it was, before

* As both are against nature, she in the end will get the better of them. The modern philosophers of Sweden seem agreed that the waters of the Baltic gradually sink in a regular proportion, which they have ventured to estimate at half an inch every year.—Twenty centuries ago, the flat country of Scandinavia must have been covered by the sea; such is the notion given us by Mela, Pliny, and Tacitus, of the vast countries round the Baltic. Adria, that ancient and famous city, which gave its name to the Gulph, is now but a pitiful half drowned village.

the

the discovery of the East and West Indies, is extraordinary. But this trade decayed, as that of Holland increased: almost all merchandizes which came from the Mediterranean, were formerly landed at Venice, and from thence brought to Augsburg; from which place, they were dispersed through all Germany. But Holland has taken away all, and distributes all; and Augsburg suffers, as well as Venice, Milan, Antwerp, and an infinite number of other cities, which are at *present* as *poor*, as *formerly* they *were* *rich*. This furnishes an excellent example, of the benefits arising from industry, and the necessity of exertion. Lord Munster rendered himself entirely master, of the knowledge of our English trade, and privileges. He also attained

tained a competent skill, in the history of jurisprudence*. As it is requisite for every man who has leisure and capacity for such researches to be acquainted with the nature and extent of that judicial authority which is to decide upon his person and property, and to which as a citizen he is bound to submit, he studied the English constitution and government in the ancient books of common law, and more modern writers, who out of them have given an account of this government. He next proceeded to the history of England, and with it joined

* See Gilbert's treatise on the Court of Exchequer, chap. 2. well worthy the perusal of those who would be acquainted with the foundation of our constitution : also Mr. de Lolme's book on the English Constitution, which has been mentioned in both houses of parliament, and has been commented on, and quoted by, the most celebrated writers of every party.

in

in every king's reign the laws then made——This gave him insight into the reason of our statutes, and shewed him the true ground upon which they came to be made, and what weight they ought to have. By this means he read the history of his own country with intelligence, and was able to examine into the *excellence* or *defects* of *its government*, and to judge of the *fitness* or *unfitness* of *its orders* and *laws*: and by this method he knows enough of the English law for a gentleman, though quite ignorant of the *chicane* or wrangling, and captious part of it, or the arts how to *avoid* doing *right*, and to *secure himself* in doing *wrong*. As Lord Munster was now eighteen years of age, Lady Frances wrote and acquainted him, that as he

had rather testified a dislike to the mercantile scheme, she desired he would relinquish it; and as nothing contributes more to enlighten and improve the understanding, than a personal acquaintance with foreign climates, she desired he would travel.—The man who by his-birth right is a free member of society, not a slave to despotic power, and who, in matters of religion, enjoys the invaluable blessing of private judgment, should not fail to visit other nations; for this will not only rub off all the selfish asperities he may have contracted from a narrow survey of things, but will also accompany him home with a more rational attachment to that constitution under which he had the happiness to be born. Heaven has placed us in a most ad-

vantageous situation; unless we are divided at home, attacks from abroad may molest, but cannot ruin us. Our laws are the laws of freedom; our merchandise the traffic of opulence——Our constitution is framed and joined together by the choicest parts, picked and extracted from aristocracies, democracies, and sovereignties. We have a natural force able to *defend* and *maintain* the empire of the seas. We enjoy wealth and possessions in both the Indies, if we do not lose them by our own misconduct——We boast a regular choice, and singular system of parliamentary government, so nicely calculated, as to be at once the defence and the support of the kingdom and the people. Our Sovereign has the power—but the parliament has still the law of that
power

power*.—What people on earth can say the same? The studies Lord Munster made of our constitution, when contrasted with his observations of other countries, made him return after three years, not a *nominal*, but a *real* patriot. This is not always the case. Too many of our young gentlemen bring home only a miserable reverse of every good purpose for which they were sent out:—as none travel more than the English, they ought, therefore, to let none surpass them in manly or generous perceptions. But we have reason to fear that what Mr. Pope observes of *one* of them may be applicable to *most*.

"Europe he saw, and Europe saw him too."

Is not this owing to their early vi-

* See Bacon on government.

siting France, where slavery is so artfully gilded over as to hide its natural deformity? If our countrymen were first to make the tour of Denmark, where the people are more apparently slaves, it would remedy this evil. On the contrary, when the subject of an arbitrary government has travelled into countries which enjoy the inestimable advantages of civil and religious liberty, he returns with a diminished affection for his own, and learns to despise and dislike that constitution which denies him the enjoyment of those natural rights, the knowledge and the value of which he has learnt from his happier neighbours.

Hence it is that despotic princes are cautious how they permit their subjects to *range abroad*; and for the reasons

above intimated, travelling has ever been encouraged in free states.

With the finest person, Lord Munster possessed all the virtues and the graces——was all complacency in his manners, all sweetness in his disposition; humane, susceptible, and compassionate.

While Lady Frances had taken so much care of his education, it may be readily supposed she was not forgetful of Lady Eliza's, his sister——whose person is faultless, and of the middle size——her face is a sweet oval, and her complexion the *brunette* of the bright kind. The finest passions are always passing in her face; and in her lovely eyes there is a fluid fire sufficient to animate a score of inanimate beauties. She has a clear understanding,

standing, and a sound judgment; has read a great deal, and has a most happy elocution: possesses a great share of wit, and with equal strength and propriety can express the whole series of the passions in comic characters. The pliability of her dispositions can raise and keep up agreeable sensations, and amuse her company.

Lord L—— declares he never saw any thing equal to her, even on the French stage, in the article of transition from passion to passion in comic life. She is perfect mistress of music, and plays admirably well on the harpsicord; having great neatness, and more expression and meaning in her playing, than is often found among lady-players.—In this, as in every other branch of her education, she has had

every advantage—Lady Frances herself being highly accomplished—and her long residence in Italy and France having perfected and improved her taste, in every accomplishment that can embellish or add graces to the youth and beauty of her niece—All her musical band have been the pupils of the first masters, and recommended to her by Santirelli, Jomelli, Galuppi, Piccini, and Sacchini. It is not then surprising that the works of these different masters are performed admirably well at Munster-house; and as there is great variety in their manner, there is that in every one of them to charm and please the most insensible. Lady Frances is highly charmed with Jomelli; while the fancy, fire, and feeling of Galuppi, and Piccini's comic

style, are infinitely more attracting to Lady Eliza, than the taste, learning, great and noble ideas of Jomelli, or the serious style of Sacchini.—One of the Bezzodzi's, from Turin, who excels on the hautboy, is also at Munster-house.

There is also a set of very excellent actors, who perform at the Tribuna, judging the representation of dramatic works of genius contribute as much to soften manners, as the exhibition of the Gladiators formerly did to harden them. When we complain of the *licentiousness* of the stage, I fear we have more reason to complain of *bad measures* in our policy, and a general decay of *virtue* and *good morals* among us.

Moliere's comedies are said to have done more service to the courtiers, than the sermons of Bourdaloue and Massillon.

The

The great Saint Chrysostom, a name consecrated to immortality by his virtue, is thought to owe a great part of his eloquence and vehemence in correcting vice, to his constantly reading Aristophanes; nor was he even censured on that account, in those times of pure zeal, and primitive religion.

Lord Shaftesbury says, "Bigotry hurries us away into the most furious excesses, upon trifles of no manner of consequence." What is more useful to a nation than the picture of strong passions, and their fatal effects; of great crimes, and their chastisement; of great virtues, and their reward? Scarce had Peter the Great polished Russia, before theatres were established there. The more Germany has improved, the more of our dramatic representations has it adopted.

dopted. Those few places, where they were not received in the last age, are never ranked among civilized countries: and theatrical entertainments have their use every where, and often keep the common people from a worse employment of their time—and so far were the institution of theatres from being the fore-runners of slavery, or the badges of despotism, that they were most encouraged, and flourished best in free states.

It is easy to conceive that the acquaintance of Lady Frances was much courted, as no private person had it so much in their power to entertain their company so well; there being every requisite at Munster-house to delight the heart, please the eyes, and satisfy the understanding.—No person of any
taste

taste but would blush to acknowledge they have not been in Shropshire to admire her buildings, manufactures, schools, &c.—And it fares with her merit like the pictures of Raphael, which are seen with admiration by all, or at least no one dare own that he has no taste for a composition which has received so universal an applause.

Upon Lord Munster's being of age, she was thirty-seven; yet the regularity of her life contributed to make her lose no more in her person than what might be considered as the slight touches in a picture, which when faded diminish nothing of the master-strokes of the piece. Lord Darnley, since the time he had expected to become Lady Frances's husband, still continued to attach himself to her. “ Whatever
her

her determinations may be," said he, "I am sensible of the value of her soul; her friendship is more tender than the endearment of love in other women." Such forbearances were not uncommon in ages of chivalry; and however justly ridiculed by the inimitable *Cervantes*, when carried to extremes, and terminating in Quixotism, yet it appears to constitute a capital part of the character of *a true knight*. Lord Darnley's attachment to Lady Frances was not founded on the weakness of his intellects; it never made him forgetful of his duties to society. He is at the same time a philosopher and a politician; and adds practice to speculation, experience to knowledge, in both these departments. Though the brilliant actions of some heroes are only handed down
to

to us, and we view their characters through the magnifying end of the tube, yet Hercules himself could lay aside his club, and amuse himself with the distaff, to enjoy the company of the woman he loved. All great souls have descended occasionally, and divesting themselves of their heroism, have become susceptible of the *tender passion*.

Lady Frances respected Lord Darnley's character, as much as she loved his person; and the time was now arrived when she proposed ingenuously to confess to him the reasons of her past conduct, and to offer to dedicate the remainder of her life in rewarding his tender, fond, faithful attentions. But she suspected that—years had made such an alteration in her person, that she ceased to be
an

an object *of love*, (to his lordship) although perfectly convinced she possessed *his esteem*—Under this apprehension it became impossible for her to act the part she intended—She became disquieted, and was determined, had that really been the case, never to have allied herself to any other. After revolving a thousand things, she at last determined to confirm or confute her hopes, by employing a particular friend, and a relation of Lord Darnley's, to discover his sentiments. Lady Frances's intimacy with this lady had commenced at Paris, when they were in the convent of the ———. As her character is peculiar, the indulgent reader will perhaps pardon the introduction of her story in this place.

At the time Lady Frances returned

ed to England, Mrs. Lee was taken out of the convent to be married. Her parents, dazzled with Mr. Lee's wealth, forgot to attend to other requisites to render that state happy. Without his being a man of very shining parts, he had such talents as made him acceptable to women, in particular to a girl so young as she was when this alliance took place. He sung and danced well, was lively to extravagance, full of agreeable trifling, and always in good humour: add to this, he was handsome in his person, liberal to excess, and calculated for the seduction of the fair. Mrs. Lee's great beauty, her parents partially flattered themselves would fix his affections.— All the graces of which the figure and motions of a female were capable, were united

united in her ; but his love for her was nothing but an impulse of passion which soon subsided. Addicted by his natural disposition to pleasure, he despised those which a tender sensibility renders so exquisitely delightful ; such would have trespassed too much on his vanity. Unexperienced and artless, his innocent wife could not long retain his affections, and in the few years she lived with him, encountered many mortifications ; first from the alienation of his affections, afterwards from the distressed situation of his affairs, which entirely changed his temper, rendering him impatient and passionate. His very footmen were taught to insult her, and every one in the family knew the most effectual way to ingratiate themselves with him,

was

was to disregard his wife. Yet she bore it all with patience, and acted her part with prudence, endeavouring to disarm his anger with gentleness. She sometimes, indeed, lamented and complained, but the dove and the lamb do so too—"The poison of grief exhales only in complaints."—She was neither sullen nor gay when he was out of humour; nor impertinent or melancholy when he was pleased—She obliged her affections to wait and submit to the various turns of his temper—trying to bribe his passions to her interest. She endeavoured also, by œconomy and proper attention, to retard, as long as possible, the ruin that threatened him; and considerably diminished the household expences.

This pleased her husband; he wanted

to retrench, without appearing less magnificent; for his prudence (or rather his desire of saving at home to squander abroad) was still subordinate to his ostentation. But all these innocent stratagems were ineffectual; spending his whole time between women, racing, and gaming, one excess succeeded another, until his affairs were entirely involved. Previous to this, Mrs. Lee had resigned her jewels to pay one of his game debts, which she afterwards saw adorning a girl he kept. The world saw he devoted himself only to objects of contempt, and pitied his neglect of a woman of her merit, and who was still handsome, having that style of beauty which is the image of a sensible heart, though sorrow and tears had deprived it of its freshness. This

laid her open to the assiduity of men of gallantry, who are generally obliging enough, upon such occasions, to offer their assistance to dry up a *pretty woman's tears*. It is to be confessed a woman under these circumstances is in a *very dangerous situation*.

None of Mr. Lee's conduct was founded on propriety — he was witty, kind, cold, angry, easy, stiff, jealous, careless, cautious, confident, close, open, but all *in the wrong place*. She often retired into her closet, and wept the silent hours away for his hard-heartedness—yet without one unkind word or reproach. Her parents were dead, Lady Frances at a distance, her sorrows of a complicated kind, which required great delicacy to discover; she had no person to open her heart to, none to whom she could pour

L 2

forth

forth the sorrows of her soul ! she had a susceptible heart, and no object she took any interest in, or who participated in her trials.—Thus situated, (the candid must acknowledge) she was perhaps more to be *pitied* than *blamed*, in permitting another object to glide insensibly into her affections —more especially as he was introduced by Mr. Lee, as one to whom she was indebted for his life and fortune.

The first he had defended, when two gamblers, his adversaries, were on the point of killing him ; *the last* he had preserved by discovering a scheme that had been practised on him by them when inebriated by liquor, to which he was much addicted. Her husband left her young and unexperienced heart to all the tortures and pangs of jealousy, and that *ennui* attending

tending an unoccupied heart; after flattering herself, as she had done nothing to deserve the estrangement of his affections, that they would be as permanent as her own. Why did he forsake her; why did he lay her open to temptations? her heart might have been his own, had he not cruelly abandoned her——at any rate it was too good to form another tie, had he not at last added *contempt to neglect*——and his cruel usage at last would have animated a statue, at least I may safely declare nothing warmed with flesh and blood could bear it. A man of this humour is to be beloved only in the way of christianity——that is the utmost obedience which can be allowed to the commandments of God, and the authority of religion.

Were I obliged to draw a picture that should represent the happy union between an elevated soul, a penetrating mind, and a heart in which sweet humanity resides, I would form it entirely of the person and features of Mr. Villars; and I fancy that all who had any just idea of those three qualities might perceive them plainly expressed in his form, look, and demeanor. Mr. Lee pressed him to be much at his house; and as his *innocent*, though *oppressed*, wife had been kept in constant alarms concerning the consequences of his gaming——she could not but look on Mr. Villars as the saviour of her fortune, and on one to whom she might be indebted for her husband's reformation. I shall not expatiate on the sweetness and charms
of

of his voice, of his noble appearance, and of the tincture of melancholy which softens the vivacity of his fine eyes ; but what distinguishes him from most other men is the sentimental look of modest virtue, which never gives offence. He is not in the least a slave to interest ; but as he is no stranger to the necessities of life, his conduct is always regular, and he never abandons himself to any excess. Such is and was Mr. Villars. Mrs. Lee very soon perceived his partiality for her—circumstanced as she was, his attentions were dangerous—but she could not with any propriety forbid him *a house* to which her husband so constantly *invited him*, without letting him see she mistrusted herself—more

especially as he never failed in his respect for her.

He became her only comforter and friend; and if from her youth and inexperience she was likely to fall into even the appearance of any error, it was this kind, this friendly monitor that guarded her from it.

His attentions became as necessary to her soul, as aliments of food are to the support of the body, while the respectful distance of his behaviour proved to her his passion was controuled by his respect.

Some surmises were at length insinuated to Mr. Lee, to his wife's dishonour. He paid little attention to them—but coming home one night flushed with wine, and finding Mr. Villars alone

alone at supper with her, (no unusual matter, and by his own request) he drew his sword, and wounded him before he had time to defend himself! Mrs. Lee fainted away——on her recovery, she removed herself from a house to which no entreaties on his part could prevail on her to return——declaring she would live no longer with a man who could at once suspect her virtue, endanger his friend's life, and ruin her reputation.

The world talked differently about this affair. Should not the example of the law be followed, which is so tender in criminal cases, that delinquents are often found *not guilty*, for want of legal evidence, at the same time that the court, the jury, and every one present at the trial, feel the strongest
moral

moral conviction of their *guilt* ? Scandal on the contrary always gives its most important and fatal decisions from *appearances* and *suppositions*, though reputation is dearer to a woman of honor than life itself. Mrs. Lee experienced the malevolence of her own sex particularly. What, said they, could engage Mr. Villars to devote all his time to her ? is not friendship between a man and a woman a chimera, the mask of a passion which honor or self-interest bids them conceal ? But whilst the world represented this affair in the worst colours, Lady Frances wrote her an affectionate letter, offering her assistance, and begging she would communicate her real situation, that she might the more effectually
be

be enabled to serve her ; to which Mrs. Lee returned the following answer.

“ Dear Madam.

I received the honor of your letter, and find myself elevated by your notice—if there can be pride that ranks with virtues, it is that we feel from friendships with the worthy. The liberal sentiments you express, are a proof of the goodness of your heart—I have ever thought that to believe the worst is a mark of a mean spirit, and a wicked soul ; at least I am sure, that the contrary quality, when it is not due to weakness of understanding, is the fruit of a generous temper. In return for your generosity, I will lay open my whole heart to you ; and if in consequence

I lose

I lose your esteem, I shall at least have the satisfaction resulting from a consciousness of my candour. This is a liberty I should have taken before, had it not proceeded from the timidity I felt in unbosoming myself to one whose virtues I dreaded, and in discovering *my weakness* to one who I think has *none of her own*. Your ladyship knows the trials I suffered for many years; my conduct under the severest mortifications human nature could sustain. I was wounded in my affections, contemned and insulted in my person, impoverished in my circumstances: I still had strength of mind to regulate myself so as to meet your approbation: no species of calamity was unknown to me, nor were there wanting those of the other sex,

sex, who judged from my situation they might have a chance of succeeding with me, if I was weak enough to listen to them--but they soon gave up the pursuit, judging the excess of my misfortunes had hardened my heart entirely against certain impressions. But this was so far from being the case, that my sorrows, my sufferings, rendered my heart (naturally tender) more susceptible of that refined passion, which, when dignified by respect, and softened by tenderness, found so ready access to it*.

In

* I lately met with the following story, which affected me very much, and which I give in the original; it elucidates, that a return of affection seems absolutely necessary to the existence of the human heart. "Un homme respectable, après avoir joué un grand rôle à Paris, y vivoit dans un réduit obscur, victime de l'infortune, et si indigent qu'il ne subsistoit que des aumônes de la paroisse: on lui remettoit par semaine la
quantité

In short, circumstanced as I was, if it is a crime to love, I am very culpable ! but had I unfortunately proceeded to any act contrary to my engagements with Mr. Lee, I myself

quantité du pain suffisante pour sa nourriture ; il en fit demander davantage ; le curé lui écrit pour l'engager à passer chez lui ; il vient. Le curé s'informe s'il vit seul ; et avec qui, Monsieur, répond-il, voudriez-vous que je vécasse ? je suis malheureux, vous le voyez, puis que j'ai recours à la charité, et tout le monde m'a abandonné, tout le monde ! Mais, Monsieur, continue le curé, si vous êtes seul, pourquoi demandez vous plus de pain que ce qui vous est nécessaire ? L'autre paroît déconcerté ; il avoue avec peine qu'il a un chien : le curé ne le laisse pas poursuivre ; il lui fait observer qu'il n'est que le distributeur du pain des pauvres, et que l'honnêteté exige absolument qu'il se débasse de son chien. Eh ! Monsieur, s'écrie en pleurant l'infortuné, si je m'en défais, qui est ce qui m'aimera ? Le pasteur attendri jusqu'aux larmes, tire sa bourse, et la lui donne, en disant, Prenez, Monsieur, ceci m'appartient."

would

would have acquainted him with it, though, in the opinion of many, he would not have deserved so much candour from me.

This being the real state of the case, I flatter myself your ladyship will think me more *weak* than *wicked*, more *frail* than *culpable*, more *unfortunate* than *indiscreet*. And I must now acquaint you, that I am determined never to return to my husband—I have consulted my reason on this subject, and when we have done so, whatever the decision be, whether in favour of our prejudices, or against them, we must rest satisfied, since nothing can be more certain than this, that he who follows that guide in the search of truth, as that was given to direct him, will have a much better
plea

plea to make for his conduct, than he who has resigned himself implicitly to the guidance of others. My maxim is, our understanding, *properly* exercised, is the *medium* by which God makes known his *will* to us; and that in all *cases*, the voice of impartial reason is the *voice of* God. Were my marriage even to be annulled, all the theologians in the world could not prove the least impiety in it.—Milton wrote *the doctrine and discipline of divorce*; wherein he proves, that a contrariety of mind, destructive of felicity, peace, and happiness, are greater reasons of divorce than adultery, especially if there be no children, and there be a mutual consent for separation.

He dedicated the second edition to the parliament of England, with the assembly

assembly of divines——The latter summoned him before the house of Lords, who, whether approving his doctrine, or not favouring his accusers, dismissed him. Necessary and just causes have necessary and just consequences : what error and disaster joined, reason and equity should disjoin.

I see no reason why those who upon the evidence of more than fourteen years experience are unsuited to each other, *joined not matched*, should live disagreeably together, and exist miserably—merely for the inadequate satisfaction of exulting upon the degree of their patience in having to say they did *not part*. A person may mistake in fixing love without knowledge of the party, but he cannot err that finds cause to dislike from woeful experience.

It is, indeed, convenient for the lords of the creation to inculcate another doctrine, upon the same principles that the extreme and timorous attention to his own security made James I. very anxious to infuse into his subjects the belief of divine hereditary right, and a scrupulous unreserved obedience *to the power which God had set over them.* Mr. Villars, who is now reconciled with my husband, has written to intercede in his behalf, assuring me of his penitence and affection. Boileau has observed, that it is an easy matter in a *Christian poem* for God to bring the *devil to reason.* Could I believe that all my husband did, were the effects of love, it would not in the least alter my resolution, since I should consider a person whose

affection had such dreadful effects, as dangerous to my repose, as one whose anger was implacable.—What signifies it to me whether it be love or hatred by which I suffer, if the danger and inconvenience be the same? I am certain were we to live together again, whenever we met we should as naturally quarrel as the elephant and the rhinoceros. Reconciliations in the marriage state, after violent breaches, are seldom lasting, and after what has passed between us, like the father of the gods and the queen of heaven, we shall be the best company when *asunder*.

He says his conduct proceeded from an excess of love ! I desire to be subject no more to such excesses ! I am content to be moderately be-
M 2 loved ;

loved; nor shall I ever again give occasion for such extraordinary proofs of affection. Were I to act otherwise, it would afford too much encouragement for the men to use their wives ill. *Too good subjects are apt to make bad kings.* He has my consent to live with any woman who can delight in such a *loving husband*, while I will force him to esteem my conduct, and irritate his animosity by declining a reconciliation. We are tired with perpetual gratitude, and perpetual hatred.—He wishes to be reconciled to me, not from any religious motive, or return of affection, his animosity being still the same—but because he is tired of acting the part of a provoked husband.

I am

I am piqued at Mr. Villars's interest-
ing himself in this matter. I shall not
answer his letter for a week; I mis-
trust my own vivacity.

Our imagination is often our great-
est enemy: I am striving to weary
mine before I act. Business like fruit
hath its time of maturity, and we
should not think of dispatching it while
it is half ripe. The Cardinal de Retz
said, "I have all my life-time held
men in greater esteem for what they
forbore to do on some occasions than
for what they did."

I have here a most delightful dwell-
ing——It is thatched, and covered
on every side with roses, wood-bines,
and honey-suckles, surrounded with
a garden of the most artful confusion.

The streams all around murmur, and fall a thousand ways. A great variety of birds are here collected, and are in high harmony on the sprays. The ruins of an abbey enhance the beauties of this place : they appear at the distance of four hundred yards from the house ; and as some great trees are now grown up among the remains, and a river winds among the broken walls, the view is solemn, the picture fine. Here I often meditate on my misfortunes.

“ There is a joy in grief when peace dwells
in the breast of the sad.”

OSSIAN'S POEMS.

Sadneſs receives ſo many eulogiums
in the ſcripture, that it is eaſy to judge,
that if it be not of the number of
the

the, virtues it may be usefully employed in their service——and it may be truly observed, that without experiencing sorrow, we should never know life's true value.

About a mile above the house is a range of very high hills, the sight of which renders me less incredulous of the accounts of Olympus, and mount Athos. Hygeia resides here, and dispenses the chief blessings of life, ease and health. I will pass my days in sweet tranquillity and study.

In either place 'tis folly to complain,
The mind, and not the place, creates the pain.

HORACE, lib. 1. epist. 14.

Could I flatter myself I should ever
be honored by your presence, how
happy I should be!——Your eye,

M 4.

I am

I am sure, would catch pleasure while it measures the surrounding landscape (even at this season of the year) of russet lawns and grey fallows, on which stray the nibbling flocks : the mountains too, which seem to support the labouring clouds, add sublimity to the charming scene. When I take a walk after a sedentary occupation, I feel a sensible pleasure ; rest in its turn becomes agreeable, if it has been preceded by a moderate fatigue. Every action of our lives may be converted into a kind of pleasure, if it is but well timed : Life owes all its joys to this well-adapted succession ; and he will never enjoy its true relish, who does not know to blend pleasure with dissipation. I ask pardon for detaining your ladyship so long—

My

My cousin Lord Darnley has been to see, and admires my cottage.—I perceive plainly he flatters himself that you will one day make him happy. I do not presume to offer my advice; it would be imitating the savage chief, who marks out to the sun the course it is to take—but surely his respectful, uninterrupted attachment deserves your consideration. Were I not perfectly convinced of his worth and sincerity, I should be *the last* person to speak in his behalf. The bitterness of conjugal repentance, which I have experienced, is beyond all others poignant; and happy it is if *disunion*, rather than perpetual *disagreement*, results from it.

I ever am your ladyship's

Obliged and affectionate friend,

LUCY LEE.

Lady

Lady Frances returned Mrs. Lee immediately the following answer.

“ Dear Madam, Munster-house.

I return you many thanks for the confidence you honored me with ; and I sincerely sympathize with you on the many disagreeable events that have occurred to you. If my approbation can confer on you any satisfaction, you possess it in a very eminent degree : for though I cannot approve of your sentiments concerning divorce, &c. yet your conduct in your family was exemplary.

There is no reasoning about the motions of the heart. Reflection and sensation are extremely different—our affections are not in our own power, though

though yours seem to have been under proper regulations.

I am not surpris'd at the calumny you met with. Many people stoop to the baseness of discovering in a person distinguished by eminent qualities, the weaknesses of humanity, while there is scarcely to be found an honest heart, who knows how to render a noble and sincere homage to another's superiority. I acknowledge myself guilty with respect to you, of a too common instance of injustice, that of desiring that others would always *conduct themselves* by our maxims! I am the more culpable, as I entirely agree with you in thinking that all our actions should proceed from the fixed principles we have adopted. I never pay a blind deference to the judgment of any man,
or

or any body of men whatever. I cannot acquiesce in a decision, however formidable made by numbers, where my own reason is not satisfied. When the mind has no *data*, no settled principles to which it may recur as the rule of action, the agent can feel little or no satisfaction within himself, and society can have no moral security whatever against him.

The most permanent, the most pleasing enjoyment the human soul is capable of entertaining, is that which arises from a consciousness of having acted up to that standard of rectitude which we conceive to be the proper measure of our duty: and the best grounds on which we can expect others to place confidence in us, is the assurance we give them that we act
under

under the influence of such moral obligations. This principle has influenced my conduct: and as you say you are absolutely determined never to live with your husband again; although my sentiments do not correspond with yours on that head, I will add nothing further on that subject, but refer you to certain passages in scripture, which I think on sober reflection must invalidate your present opinion*.

The caprice you have often tacitly blamed me for, respecting Lord Darnley, had you known the motives for, you would have approved—I will now in reward for your candour *to me* be equally sincere *with you*—trusting to

* X Chap. of St. Mark. XVI Chap. of St. Luke. VII Chap. of the Romans.

your

your honor, that you will not *divulge* what is it so material to me to *conceal*.

At the time I agreed to give Lord Darnley my hand, I was at liberty to indulge my inclinations, and to devote myself intirely to him: But on my father's death, when I found the estate in my possession, I considered myself as mother to my brother's children. This was my motive for rejecting the man I (*did*, and do *now*) fondly love: who by his generous and friendly, his respectful and tender behaviour, deserves every thing from me. Whoever pretends to be without passions, censures the wisdom of that Power which made him; and if men of sense (for they alone are capable of refined pleasure) would so far admit love, as not to exclude their necessary and more im-

important duties, they need not be ashamed to indulge one of the most valuable blessings of an innocent life. I honor the married state: and have high ideas of the happiness resulting from an union of hearts. Domestic society is founded on the union betwixt husband and wife. Among all the civilized nations, this union hath been esteemed sacred and honorable; and from it are derived those exquisite joys, or sorrows, which can embitter all the pleasures, or alleviate all the pains in human life. The heart has but a certain degree of sensibility, which we ought to be œconomists of. Lord Darnley engrossed my whole soul; nothing could afford me any pleasure which had no reference to him.—He was ever uppermost in my thoughts,
and

and I bestowed only a secondary reflection on all other subjects.

I could have chearfully, for his *conversation*, abandoned all society on earth beside, and have been more blessed, than if, for them, I had been deprived of *his*. But if we suffer one particular duty (even the worship of the Deity) to engross us entirely, or even to encroach upon the rest, we make but a very imperfect essay towards religion, or virtue; and are still at a considerable distance from the business of a moral agent. "The dial that mistells one hour, of consequence is false through the whole round of day."

Virtue, in my acceptation, is nothing else than that principle by which our actions are *intentionally directed*, to

produce good, to the several objects of our free agency. I was aware, that it was not only necessary that I should mean to act a right part, and take the best way which could direct me to effect it, but that I should previously take those measures which were in my power to acquire the knowledge of my duty, and of the weaknesses I had to guard against. I was sensible, that, had I given my hand to Lord Darnley, I would have been defective in the duties incumbent on me to my own family:— Love would have taken entire possession of my soul, and shut up the avenues of my heart against every other sentiment. Upon this occasion I felt how justly the sacrifice of our own happiness is placed among the highest virtues. How painful must it be to

the most generous heart ! Men lose their lives to honor—I relinquished my love—the life of life. I am sensible I have been condemned for permitting him to be so much with me : but what recompence can the world bestow on me, for relinquishing the society of a real and tender friend ? Common attachments, the shadows of friendship, the issue of chance, or fantastic likings, *rashly cemented*, may as hastily *be dissolved* : but mine has had the purest virtue for its basis, and will subsist whilst vital breath in me remains. My affections are founded on those amiable qualities, which are seldom united, and therefore but little liable to be displaced. My partiality is founded on esteem : take away the cause, the effect will

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cease.

cease. The dread of the world has never yet withheld me from following the bent of my own inclinations, and the dictates of my own heart, not the dread of censure ever influenced my conduct.

Your mention of his continued attachment is highly flattering, and very pleasing—There you touched the tenderest springs of my heart, bring me down to all the softness of my sex, and press upon me a crowd of tender, lovely, ideas—

If the consciousness of good-will to others, though inactive, be highly delightful, what a superior joy have I not experienced, my dear friend, in exerting this disposition, in acts of beneficence ! Is not this the supreme en-

joyment in nature ? It is true, the great works I have carried on, the encouragement I have given to learning, the manufactories I have introduced into this kingdom, &c. &c. have procured me the suffrage of the world, and may transmit my name down to posterity. But what flatters me most is, that if I have acquired any fame, it is derived from the man I love. My acquaintance with him, has been a happiness to my mind, because it has improved and exalted its powers. The epithet of *great*, so liberally bestowed on princes, would, in most cases, if narrowly scanned, belong rather to their ministers. Unassisted by Agrippa and Mecænas, where should we have placed Augustus ? What is the history of

Lewis

Lewis XIII. but the shining acts of Richelieu? Lewis XIV. was indeed a great king; but the Condés, the Turennes, as well as the Luvois, and Colberts, had no small share in acquiring the glories of his reign. In all situations of life, it is of great consequence to make a right choice of those we confide in—It is on that choice our own glory and peace depend.—But it is still more so to princes, or persons of large property. A private man will find a thousand persons ready to open his eyes, by reproaching him with the wrong steps into which bad advice drew him; whereas courtiers, or those who are interested, approve and applaud whatever the prince or the great person does.

An ingenious courtier replied to his friend, who upbraided him with his too great complaisance for the emperor who had made bad verses, which he commended ; “ Would you have me have more sense than a man who commands twelve legions, and can banish me ? ”

That day my nephew is of age, I shall assign over his estate, and acquaint him of his obligations to Lord Darnley, to whom, at the same time, I shall offer my hand, if I have reason then to think it shall be agreeable to him. If it should not, I shall be mortified, though I shall not deck my brow with the plaintive willow. I need not tell you how agreeable it will be for me to see you at this place, which is considerably improved since you were here last. This day month I give a feast, in imitation

tation of the Saturnalia *; make me happy by your presence on that occasion.

I remain, with great esteem,

Your affectionate friend,

FRANCES FINLAY.

Mrs. Lee, soon after the receipt of the above letter, came to Munster-house, where she generally resided during the winter months, (after her separation from her husband) retiring to her cottage in Wales, in the summer.

Lady Frances had always a select number of friends with her. Notwithstanding her passion for music, she kept

* Which was upheld in Heathen Rome, about the time we keep our Christmas.

the performers in their own line ; and though she venerated the liberal sciences, and contributed so largely to their cultivation, their several professors only waited on her by invitation : by this means she had it always in her power to suit her company, and never to be intruded on ; as the best things are irksome to those whose inclinations, tastes, and humours, they do not suit.

I have already mentioned Mrs. Norden, who had the care of Lady Frances's education, and who now continued to reside with her : this Lady's seriousness was happily contrasted with Lady Eliza's sprightliness, while Lady Frances's scientific knowledge was agreeably relieved by the strokes of nature observable in Mrs. Lee—who declared she had never read, or studied,

any more than to assist her decyphering what was incumbent on her *to understand*. “ I hate your wise ones,” said she, “ there is no opinion so absurd but it has been mentioned by some philosopher.” She is nature itself, without disguise, quite original, disdaining all imitation, even in her dress, which is simple but unaffected. She plays most divinely on the fiddle. Her genius for music is sublime and universal. She holds the fiddle like a man, and produces music in all its genuine charms, raising the soul into the finest affections.

An aunt and sister of Sir Harry Bingley’s were also much at Munster-house. Miss Bingley was of the same age with Lady Eliza: to the charms of a regular beauty she joins all those of a
cul-

cultivated mind, together with a disposition replete with candor, and a turn for ridicule; two things rarely joined together—as a calm dispassionate love of truth, with a disposition to examine carefully, and judge impartially, with a love of diverting one's self at other people's expence, seldom meet together in the same mind. Mrs. Dorothea Bingley is a maiden lady of fifty, possessed of a large independent fortune, which she proposes to bestow on her niece. She was in her youth very handsome: but having lived all her life in the country, she derived all her ideas of love from the heroic romance. To talk to her of love was a capital offence. Her rigour must be melted by the blood of giants, necromancers, and

and paynim knights. She expected, that, for her sake, they would retire to desarts, mourn her cruelty, *subsist* on *nothing*; and make light of scampering over impassable mountains, and riding through unfordable rivers, without recollecting, that, while the imagination of the lover is linked to this *muddy vesture of decay*, she must now and then condescend to partake of the carnality of the vivres of the sham-
bles.

Those of the other sex who were mostly at Munster-house, were, Lord Darnley, Sir Harry Bingley, Sir James Mordaunt, &c. &c. &c. Great marriages had been proposed to Lady Frances; but she had ceased long to be importuned on that head. When Lord Munster was of age she gave a
splen-

splendid entertainment to the neighbourhood, which finished with a ball. The day after she shewed her nephew the state of her affairs, when she succeeded to the estate: and that, exclusive of the buildings, &c. &c. she had already doubled it: that the perpetual burthens she had entailed on it, did not amount to one quarter of the advanced rents, which would continue to encrease: that she had put aside for Lady Eliza's fortune fifty thousand pounds, and an equivalent sum for herself, and then with great pleasure resigned the remainder to his Lordship, whom she was happy to find so worthy of filling the place of his ancestors. She at the same time acquainted him with her motives for concealing her intentions in his favor, and that,

had

had she seen him addicted to any irregularities, she would not have assigned over the property so soon to him—as the law of this country does not interfere like that of France, where, if a person, before he attains the age of twenty-five, wastes his fortune by anticipation, or other means, and is in a fair way of ruining himself, and, perhaps, his family; the government interposes: guardians of his estate are appointed, and his person may be detained in custody till he arrives at that age; but *there* the jurisdiction stops. The acknowledgments of Lord Munster are easier to be conceived, than expressed—he concluded by saying, “he hoped Lady Frances would always consider Munster-house as still her own, and make it her principal residence!”

She

She smiled, and looking to Lord Darnley, said, "Having my lord performed my duty to this family; it is now in my power to make myself happy by conforming to your wishes—Sixteen years ago, I had singly an engagement to fulfil; but I have now a breach of it to repair." Lord Darnley's joy may easily be supposed great on this occasion, who had maintained for Lady Frances, for so long a time, an uninterrupted attachment.—They were married a few days afterwards. Never did Phœbus gild a more auspicious day; never did Cupid inspire two lovers with a higher sense of each other's merit; and never did Hymen light his torch with a greater complacency, than to reward that constancy which remained invincible in Lord Darnley,

Darnley, without even being supported by hope.

The part Lady Darnley performed would have been difficult for another ; but the club which a man of ordinary size could but lift, was but a walking-stick to Hercules.

No one enjoyed this wedding more than Mrs. Dorothea Bingley. A sixteen years courtship corresponded entirely with her ideas of the right and fitness of things. She harangued her niece and Lady Eliza on this subject, telling them that Lady Darnley is the only woman she knows in this degenerate age, that has acted up to the propriety of the ancients—that she respected the sublimity of her ideas. She was very desirous of her niece's marrying a Mr. Bennet, because he made
love

love in heroics, was inebriated in his science, and thought all the world considered him as a Phoenix of wit. Miss Bingley would often reason with her aunt on this subject; "Of what use in the world (said she) is an erudition so savage, and so full of presumption?"

One moral, or a mere well-natur'd deed,
Does all desert in sciences exceed.

SHEFFIELD.

But Mrs. Dorothea always insisted that he was a classical scholar, and a fine gentleman! The niece declared he was a Pagan, and ought to have lived two centuries ago, as he spoke a language she did not understand! "He may be learned (said she) but he has no passion!"

"No passion (replied Mrs. Dorothea)

thy) how comes he then to write such fine letters ?”

“ The fine letters (replied Miss Bingley) show memory and fancy, but no sensations of *the heart* ! lovers who make use of extravagant tropes are reduced to that expedient, to supply the defect of passion by the deceitful counterfeit of hyperbolical language. The passions of *the heart* depend not on the deductions of *the understanding*—but it was necessary he should have a *Corinna*, because Ovid had *one* ; and he makes me inconstant, although I never gave him any encouragement, because Gallus’s favourite run away with a soldier. He seems to be intimately acquainted with the history of Cupid and Venus, but knows nothing of *love* : and would be sooner

applauded for writing a good elegy, than have his mistress smile on him."

Mrs. Dorothy told her, that she was exceedingly perverse, but she would give her leave *to talk*, as she had the power *to do*.

Miss Bingley said, " Since Mr. Bennet was so much in her good graces, she made no doubt but he would pay her his homage, on the smallest hint, would transfer his affections—as the foundation of his passion was *the same* for *both*, built on that of her *mansion*, would *grow* with her *trees* and *increase* with her *estate*——Increase, you know, my dear aunt, is the end of marriage; and your fortune is better than Medea's charm, for that only made an old man young again; but your riches will make a young man enamoured of
an

an old woman ! He will swear you are not only wiser than Minerva, but fairer than the Paphian queen ! Though you are old, your trees are green ; and though you have lost the roses in your cheeks, there are great plenty of them on your pleasure-grounds."

Mrs. Dorothy with great good-humour laughed at her niece's fallies, saying, " You remember what Martial says ;

" Fain would kind Paula wed me if she could :
I won't, she's old ; if older yet, I would."

" But seriously, niece (said she) you will never make a choice that I shall so much approve of—he has so much wit."

Miss Bingley replied, that all the credit he has for wit is owing to

the gratification he gives to others ill-nature : and said she would be very happy to accommodate herself to her aunt's wishes; but was not upon such a religious strain, and so desirous of canonization hereafter (if sufferings can make a saint) as to marry a man of his character, that she might have her mortifications and punishments in this life : but at the same time would faithfully promise never to marry any man she disapproved of.

There were great rejoicings for some weeks at Munster-house :—at which time Lord and Lady Darnley set out for their estate in Dorsetshire, and Lady Eliza accompanied Lord Munster to London. As a correspondence commenced at this period between the parties I have already

introduced to the reader, the sequel of this history will appear from their letters. I shall only observe, that Lord Munster's figure was remarkably agreeable, his address engaging; he first attracted, and then commanded the admiration of all who knew him. On the slightest acquaintance with him, a most exact regard to all the proprieties and decencies of life were observable in his conduct; and such an evident desire to oblige, and to make all about him easy, as became a good mind and a liberal education. An agreeable chearfulness made his conversation as lively and agreeable as it was useful and instructing. But the discerning eye of friendship could discover that he was not happy, and that delicacy to the feelings of his

friends restrained him from giving way to an uneasiness, which it was too apparent he laboured under. His general behaviour bore the genuine stamp of true politeness, the result of an overflowing humanity and benevolence of heart. Such qualities very justly and forcibly recommend, lying obvious to almost every observer; but to the more discerning, a nearer view of him quickly discovered endowments far above the common standard. He had, in truth, endowments of mind to have honored any station.

As Lady Darnley's breast glowed with that exalted fervent charity which embraces the wide extended interests of men, of communities, of the species itself; it is easy to conceive how her heart exulted at finding her
nephew

nephew so deserving of all she had done for him. But though she felt the greatest satisfaction at his being so conformable to her wishes, and his fortune so adequate to his beneficence ; the same sensibility rendered her wretched for the evident melancholy in which he was plunged. Her social affections ever awake, even on those whose objects lie beyond the nearer ties of nature, on many occasions gave her most painful sympathetic feelings ; so deeply was she interested in the fortunes of all with whom she had any connection. How then must she mourn to observe, that, notwithstanding the possession of every advantage of person and wealth, her nephew was miserable !—If men would but consider how many things there are

that riches cannot buy, they would not be so fond of them—for all the outward advantages Lord Munster had, were, to a man in his situation of mind, *landscapes* before a *blind man*, or *music* to one that *is deaf*.

Delicacy kept Lady Darnley from interrogating her nephew on the subject of his grief; sensible that the remotest desire *from her*, must amount to a command *to him*. She only, at parting, insinuated the happiness it would afford her to see him ally himself suitably to some lady of merit: and, as Lady Eliza was to accompany him to town, requested him to moderate her liveliness, and to be a careful observer of her conduct.

“ I never see (said she) a single man, who hath passed middle age
in

in celibacy, where no particular security arises from his profession or character; but I think I see an unsafe subject, and a very dangerous instrument for any mischief that his *own* parts may *inspire*, or *other men's* may *prompt him* to: As to other achievements of virtue, a distinction *ought*, I think, to be *made*; because, in common acceptation, there is a variety of things which pass under that name, and are generally applauded, which, properly estimated, would not *deserve it*. A regard to posterity hath carried arms, arts, and literature, further than any other motive ever did or could. Who is so likely to be influenced by this regard as they who are to leave behind them the darling pledges of their affection, in whom they hope to have

have their names continued, and all the fruits of their study, toil, and exploits, abiding and permanent?" Lord Munster assured the Countess, that he would ever think it his glory to conform to her wishes in every respect.



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